

# THE INDEPENDENT

Wednesday 22 October 1997

45p No 3,434

## INSIDE TODAY

### 17/FASHION



Swanky street-wear:  
Jackets, goggles and  
anti-pollution masks  
7/COMPUTERS  
Microsoft's bully-boy  
tactics exposed

## TODAY'S NEWS

### Court told of foiled IRA bomb plot

The leader of an IRA terrorist unit was shot dead by police as they prepared to carry out a devastating bomb attack on London, the Old Bailey heard. The terrorists had prepared four huge lorry bombs, 100 bags of improvised explosive, timers, fuses and detonators, the court heard. Page 3

### Bird rescue a waste

Cleaning up seabirds which have been polluted by oil slicks is a waste of time and money. Research commissioned after the *Sea Empress* tanker disaster in Wales shows that most birds rescued and released back into the wild died after a month. Page 3

### Danish mass killings

A nurse and a doctor have been charged with killing 22 elderly people at a nursing home in Denmark. The victims were injected with a morphine-based drug in what is believed to have been organised euthanasia. Page 11

### Christmas crackers

The traditional features that make Christmas special are disappearing and it is being left to women to create a "magical occasion" for their families, according to a report. Page 9

### Tory dress dilemma

William Hague and around 150 Tory MPs yesterday held a bonding session at the seaside to begin the task of modernising the party. But Eastbourne man was clearly in a state of confusion about how he should dress for his new image. Page 14

### Pound on the up

The pound climbed further yesterday as a result of the Chancellor's hint that he has ruled out joining a European single currency during the lifetime of this parliament. Business and union leaders urged the Government to reconsider as the pound took its toll on exports. Page 23

## SEEN & HEARD

When schoolgirl Kelly Manning realised she had dialled 112 instead of directory inquiries on 192, she apologised and hung up. What she didn't realise was that her number had triggered a Europe-wide emergency response.

Minutes later, her father returned home to find squad cars screeching to a halt outside. Detectives leapt out, kicked their door down and searched the house.

Yesterday BT revealed that Kelly, 14, had accidentally dialled a European emergency line. The 112 number, equivalent to 999, is designed to aid visitors. A BT spokesman said: "The caller would have got a normal 999 operator who probably heard a worried-sounding child's voice and erred on the side of caution."

"Poor Kelly was pretty embarrassed," said her mother, Mary. "She said: 'Why is it when I make a mistake everybody has to find out?'"

## 'I felt the knife at my neck. My wife was so brave. She tried to help. So they cut her throat in front of me.'

*Algeria, this autumn: a people in agony*



A hooded man stands guard at the funeral of a young militia member killed by Islamist terrorists at Ait Said village, in the Kabylie region

Photograph: Abbas/Magnum

Amid the ruins of their burnt-out homes, the survivors of Algeria's civil war massacres have been describing the slaughter of hundreds of women and babies in the countryside south of Algiers. Many of the hamlets are now Bosnian-styled ghost towns of crumbling walls and collapsed roofs, Robert Fisk reports from the village of Rais where the worst massacre of the war occurred.

From the roof of Ali's house, you can see the local army barracks just a third of a mile across the fields, yellow-painted with a green and white Algerian flag fluttering gaily from the roof. No, Ali says, he doesn't know why the soldiers did not intervene when the murderers turned up - 60 of them, he says, dressed in Afghan robes and hats - to cut the throats of his family. Round the side of Ali's neck, there is a ferocious purple scar that slices through his skin, crudely stitched - because they cut Ali's throat too.

"There were up to 100 men who came into our village from three directions - they were here for at least three hours," he said his head leaning at an odd, permanent angle to the right.

"There was shooting and screaming. No one helped us."

Around him, in cheap brick villas and chicken yards and burnt-out garages lay still the thick scum of old blood, all that remains in the village of the 349 Algerians - mostly women and children - slaughtered in the late evening of 29 August. When I asked Ali to describe the night, he stared at me in silence, fingering his left arm, which was swathed in bandages but revealed another frightful purple scar at the wrist.

A neighbour whispered in my ear: "They knifed his wife in front of him." And it was this that forced Ali to talk. "I had most of the family here," he said. "My wife, my three sons, my brother, his wife, sons and daughter, and many cousins."

"We hid in the house but they threw bombs through the windows and broke down the door with axes." Ali swayed against the balcony wall. I had already

crunched through the carbonised interior of the house and found, beside the begonia plants and vines on the balcony, an old tray bearing the Arabic words: "There is only one God but God and his Prophet is Mohamed." Beside it, as if painted on to the wall in defiance of all religion, was a darkened stream of blood.

"My baby son Mohamed was five and they cut his throat and threw him out of the upper window," Ali said. "Then they cut the throat of my eldest son Rabeh and then my brother's throat because he saw they were kidnapping his wife and tried to stop them. They took some of the other girls." And Ali raised a hand and said: "Blood." There was more downstairs, stained brown across the living room floor where Ali's final calvary took place.

"They cut my throat and I felt the knife in my neck but I tried to shield myself and

paralleled butchery? Why should Islamists murder the very same villagers who voted *en masse* for the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) - banned after the national elections that they would have won were cancelled in 1991 - and who have traditionally opposed the Algerian government?"

In the neighbouring village of Bentahha - with about 240 dead a month ago - the old FIS election signs remain spray-painted on walls and lamp posts. And here, too, a 54-year-old man, who would only give his name as Said, claimed that the village men had fled to warn the army, leaving their women and children behind.

The evidence of what happened was there for all to see. The big houses - for the poor fled to larger homes for protection - were burnt out, their backyards swamped with blood.

"The men ran away - it was a mistake," Said conceded miserably. "They knew what would happen. Some tried to throw slates and bricks from the roofs of the houses. One of our men got a rifle and killed one of these savages. The dead man turned out to be from this same village."

Again, the screaming had gone on long into the night. And again, soldiers from the local barracks only arrived after the murderers had fled.

The "Islamists", Said recalled, even shrieked curses as they poured through the unpaved streets in turbans and gowns. "They kept crying 'You will die and go to hell - we will kill you and go to heaven'."

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TELEVISION The Eye, page 12  
CROSSWORDS Page 32 and  
the Eye, page 9

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# The great seabird rescues: we shouldn't bother

Most guillemots rescued from oil slicks die within a month of their release. Nicholas Schoon, Environment Correspondent, asks whether it is worth the trouble and expense of cleaning up seabirds after new research shows they have little chance of survival.

Rescued birds have little chance of survival, new research in the wake of last year's *Sea Empress* disaster warns.

The findings by the British Trust for Ornithology show that for every 100 guillemots released into the wild, 83 die in the first month of freedom even though the birds look healthy and vigorous.

Of those 17 to survive, just



Survival of the slickest: The RSPCA will continue rescuing birds despite evidence that the majority die

Photograph: George Phillips

how far they moved. Few of the oiled guillemots which had been ringed were seen again. Of those which were, most were dead and half had died within a week of their release. On average, they had travelled only five miles from where they had been released into the sea. Of those still alive, most were unwell.

From these dismal returns, the scientists were able to make overall estimates of the survival rates of oiled and rescued guillemots.

They lived far shorter lives than the healthy, uncoiled guillemots ringed in the course of ordinary breeding studies.

Even though the rehabilitated birds might have appeared healthy on release, the oil could have poisoned them.

Perhaps their immune systems were harmed, leaving them vulnerable to infection. They could also be severely stressed by their time in captivity, or the experience of being released into unfamiliar surroundings.

Chris Wernham, a researcher at the trust, said: "It's very difficult to say why these birds do so badly." She said she hoped the findings would lead to further research into the causes.

Studies on oiled and rescued jackass penguins in South Africa have shown they have a much higher survival rate.

Arthur Lindley, head of the RSPCA's wildlife department, did not dispute the findings. "They're disappointing and come to us as something of a surprise," he said.

Although the society had not yet considered them, he thought it highly unlikely it would give up rescuing oiled birds, or kill them humanely on the beach when there was a chance of recovery.

"When we find them they are in *exeremis*, in need of care which we can give them," he said.

how long they have survived and

ringed after their brief capture by ornithologists at their nesting sites.

All the birds rescued by the RSPCA carry these lightweight bands, which record when and where the bird was ringed. So to do many wild, healthy and uncoiled guillemots which are

When these ringed birds are caught for a second time - unless the rings are found on carcasses - they provide data on

Co-ordinated raids were carried out on the suspects at 4.30am on 23 September last year. One was arrested at a house in Chelsea, south-west London, and another near Gatwick airport.

Those two arrests went smoothly but the raid on the hotel room in the Premier West Hotel in Glenhorne Road, Hammersmith did not go to plan.

The suspected IRA men arrested were Patrick Kelly, 31, Brian McHugh, 31, considered by police as the unit commander, James Murphy, 26, a school groundsman, and Michael Phillips, 22, a mechanical aircraft engineer with British Airways at Gatwick. All the men have denied charges of conspiring to cause explosions between 1 January and 24 September last year, and of possessing explosives.

The trail continues today.

## EXCLUSIVE

three are still alive at the end of the second month. And only one will make it to the end of a year.

Each year the RSPCA rescues an average of 2,000 oiled sea-birds along the British coastline.

The species most commonly found is the guillemot, a sturdy little auk which normally lives about 25 years provided it gets through the dangerous times of infancy and adolescence.

The RSPCA does more of this rescue work than any other organisation. The oiled birds are repeatedly cleaned with detergent to remove oil and fed a special diet to help purge any they have swallowed.

Guillemots are only released after they have spent several

days swimming in tanks inside enclosures. Techniques have been refined by vets and seabird experts and the total cost of rescue costs between £10 and £30 a bird.

The trust's research was commissioned by the Sea Em-

press Environmental Evaluation Committee a few months after the grounded supertanker shed most of its cargo along the Pembrokeshire coast last year.

The commission followed a scientific report from the United States which warned that the

survival rate of rescued guillemots was extremely low.

Scientists monitored the number of guillemots found - dead and alive - along the British coastline with rings around their legs. The rings were placed on the birds earlier

in their lives for research purposes.

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## Police shot unarmed IRA suspect 'in raid to foil bomb plot'

An IRA unit planned to carry out a devastating carry bombing campaign in London, a jury was told yesterday. Jason Bennett and Amanda Kelly were in court to hear how the police and MI5 officers foiled the alleged plot.

An unarmed IRA suspect was shot dead by a police marksman after an intensive surveillance operation against a terrorist unit that intended to cause

death and destruction, an Old Bailey jury was told.

Diamond O'Neill, 27, was gunned down at a hotel in west London where three IRA suspects were staying. CS gas fired into their rooms blinded not only the suspects but police officers as well, the court was told.

The raid ended six weeks of intensive covert surveillance last summer of five IRA suspects by Metropolitan Police and MI5 officers. Listening bugs were planted in the suspects' cars and rooms; their electronic pagers and telephone calls - even from public telephone boxes - were monitored, and film from mobile video recorders and surveillance cameras in train stations was taken.

During the raid last September the police had hoped to use a card key to break into the hotel room, but the plan went wrong.

O'Neill was shot in the darkened hotel room when he failed to respond to a police officer, only known in the court as "Kilo", who shouted "show me your hands you c\*nt".

David Waters, prosecuting, said: "All Kilo could see was a figure kneeling towards him. He thought he was going to be shot,

so he fired. He thought he had missed and fired more shots.

"From the benefit of hindsight, he need not have fired, as no firearms were in the room."

But the officer may have been feeling apprehensive, perhaps terrified, as he was silhouetted in the light, said Mr Waters. He added that officers had been shown videos of guns the suspects had stored in another part of the capital.

Mr Waters warned the jury: "However sad the loss of O'Neill's life is - and it is - whether Kilo panicked or not, do not let it deflect you from the main issue in this case."

After six weeks of surveillance, known as "Operation Timmitus", a decision was taken to move in and arrest suspected members of the IRA unit before innocent people might die, said the prosecution.

The police discovered an explosives "factory" at a lock-up unit in north London, which contained four bombs and equipment to make many more devices, including more than 100 bags of homemade explosive. All that was required to set the equipment off were detonators and timing units, according to the prosecution.

They also found three

Kalashnikov rifles, two handguns and ammunition, the prosecution alleged.

The five men were preparing for a "bombing campaign here in London", said Mr Waters. He added that the unit intended to plant bombs on lorries and leave them in unknown locations in London, to be exploded by a delayed timer switch.

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The trail continues today.

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TOMORROW'S  
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## Honda prototype offers a breath of fresh air

A car whose emissions are cleaner than the city air around it? That's what Honda claims to have developed. Richard Lloyd Parry in Tokyo and Charles Arthur, Science Editor, peer through the smog of motor company hype

The cities of south-east Asia have literally been under a cloud all summer, caused by forest fires and the exhausts of millions of vehicles. So when Honda said yesterday, at the opening of the Tokyo Motor Show, that Japanese ingenuity had invented a vehicle capable of cleaning the air which it draws in, people sat up and took notice.

The car is called the ZLEV (Zero-Level Emission Vehicle), and a prototype will be on display at the show. According to Honda's president, Nobuhiko Kawamoto, the level of pollutants generated by the engine is so low that in certain circumstances – say, a smog-struck city – the engine could “improve the atmosphere.” Emissions from the tailpipe will be cleaner than the air going in the front end,” he said. “The engine also represents a feasible approach, one we believe can be applied to Honda engines in future.”

Miraculous? Actually, no. In December 1992 the Swedish car company Saab was able to cite independent research by the UK's Transport Research Laboratory on one of its models with a catalytic converter. The lab found that “driven twice for 20 minutes over a route through the City of London, the car's 2.3-litre turbocharged engine consistently emitted less hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides than found to be present in the air.” In other words, a car that cleans the air.

In fact, in a smoggy urban environment, a car with a functional catalytic converter will “clean” the air. That does not mean though that the Honda ZLEV is totally a busted flush. Honda's claims are that the emissions per mile of various pollutants such as hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides are well below even that of an electric ve-

hicle – but only once you take into account the pollution caused at the power station which generates the electricity that the electric car uses.

Honda measures this by the strict Californian “Ultra Low Emission Vehicle” standards, which aim to cut that state's terrible urban pollution. The ZLEV came in with a tenth of those emissions – managing 0.17 grams per mile of carbon monoxide and 0.02 grams per mile of nitrogen oxides. That is, by any measure, impressive. However, details of the engine are somewhat vague and no production date has been set. Honda scientists reckon it could be in production within two years.

The key to the car's low pollutant output is its use of not one, but two catalytic converters, controlled by a 32-bit microchip so that exhaust gases are turned as rapidly as possible into carbon dioxide, water and nitrogen. The only real solution to pollution from cars would be not to use them. But it is unlikely that Honda is going to be announcing that soon.

Contrary to its reputation, Japan has rather a good record on tackling pollution, and the terrible smogs presently afflicting Malaysia and Singapore have not been seen here for two decades. In the 1960s and 1970s, Tokyo was famous as the city where traffic policemen were administered oxygen after they came off duty, but a concerted effort by government and industry brought pollution levels down. This year, clean air is an especially fashionable topic. In December, the city of Kyoto will host “COP-3”, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and domestic car makers at the Tokyo Motor Show are playing the environmental card in a slow, but increasingly competitive market.

Honda also announced a “hybrid” car, similar to Toyota's Prius, which will use both a petrol engine and an electric motor, cutting carbon monoxide emissions by half. Mitsubishi and Nissan have both jumped on the bandwagon with plans for direct injection engines, intended to improve fuel efficiency and cut CO2 emissions.

## Can Mercedes ever take the crown from Rolls-Royce?



Battle for punters: Mercedes' new “concept car”, (left) which will be unveiled today, is hoping to corner the market in top-of-the-range luxury cars and their champagne-quaffing clientele, which has long been held to be the preserve of Mercedes' arch rival Rolls-Royce (above)

The luxury car market has long been considered the preserve of the aristocratic charms of Rolls-Royce Motors. But that may no longer be the case as German car maker Mercedes launches a limousine aimed at becoming the new king of the road.

Mercedes unveils its new “concept car” at the Tokyo motor show today. The luxury limousine will be badged as a Maybach, reviving a brand from the 1930s when Mercedes were considered a class apart from Rolls-Royce.

The new car will be far more powerful than any existing Mercedes model – using a

larger version of the 12-cylinder engine that powers the German motor manufacturer's flagship S600. *Autocar*, the trade magazine, predicted that it could be powered by an 8 litre, V16 engine.

Mercedes has had considerable success in attracting well-heeled punters. It sold more than 2,000 of its most expensive S series cars last year – which cost about £100,000 each.

Dubbed the battle between “the spirit of Ecstasy” and “the three-pointed star”, industry experts point out there is little love lost between the two companies – after Rolls-

Royce chose German motor makers BMW, a rival of Mercedes, to supply engines to its new models.

The challenge is a serious one. A basic Maybach would cost £125,000 – matching Rolls-Royce's cheapest models – and rise according to the customer's requirements.

Rolls-Royce remains sceptical of its rival's intentions. “This is not yet a production car,” said a spokesman for the Crewe-based car maker.

“People do not realise that many of our customers can easily afford to buy both a Rolls-Royce and a Mercedes if they wish,” he added.

Many Rolls-Royces – “Rollers” to punters and “Royces” to the industry – are also extended and this, claims a company spokesman, considerably increases the price tag. “£125,000 is a starting point. For a limousine a customer can easily pay £200,000.”

Earlier this month, Rolls-Royce announced a 9 per cent rise in sales in the first nine months of this year – to 1,396 cars.

The most expensive marques have had to counter the rising popularity of the “super-saloons”, such as the Lexus LS400 and the Cadillac

Seville. These retail for approximately £50,000 and have been snapped up by punters looking for a taste of the high-life.

Other car-makers are also preparing to enter this market. Volkswagen recently announced that it will build a V12-powered luxury car.

However, Mercedes officials are quietly confident of the potential of its new concept car. “There will be an announcement concerning the Super S saloon, but I am afraid we have no more information at this point,” said a spokesman.

— Randeep Ramesh

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Professor Kevin Warwick out training with Roger (named after the runner Sir Roger Bannister), the world's first half-marathon robot, which has been developed at Reading University. Both will take part in the Great Sam Half Marathon in Bracknell, Berkshire, on Sunday Photograph: Andrew Burman

## English teachers urged to promote British version

British, not American, English should be taught to those who learn English as a foreign language, the Government's chief adviser on the curriculum said yesterday.

At a Paris conference on teaching English in the European Union, Dr Nick Tate questioned the idea that one version of English was as valid as any other. In a world in which increasing numbers of people were learning English, it was important to establish the authority of British-English, he said.

There are around 370 million first language speakers of English, 370 million who speak it as a second language, for whom English is a lingua franca for some purposes within their own country and 700 million who speak English as a foreign language.

Though American English dominated television, software and the Internet, in many countries where English was a sec-

ond language its use derived from former links with Britain, Dr Tate, chief executive of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, said.

"From the perspective of other member states of the European Union, the question of authority in English language use ought not to be difficult to resolve. The version with the greatest authority, British-English, is also the version which best equips young people to communicate with others."

There was no need for those teaching English as a foreign language to take into account different versions of British-English. "Learners of English as a foreign language need a version of the language that most people can understand. The language spoken by sub-groups within the UK or the USA does not provide this. Standard-British English does."

— Judith Judd, Education Editor

## Westminster Tube station runs into serious delays

Members of Parliament could be the last to benefit from the multi-billion pound Jubilee Line Extension on the London Underground, it was revealed yesterday.

Work on the Westminster station, part of the extension and right next to the Houses of Parliament, might not be complete when the line opens next September. "We have some concern that we may not be able to complete Westminster station in time and it might be three to four months late," said London Underground managing director Denis Tunncliffe.

Mr Tunncliffe said it was "last-minute details like escalators that would need the extra time". The project is already six months late and its cost has risen from a £2.1bn estimate to £2.75bn.

London Transport chiefs also revealed that a hi-tech signalling system may not be ready for the opening and a back-up system was being prepared. Failure to get the signalling right would mean that the line, which links central London to Docklands, would not open until 1999.

● Peter Ford, chairman of London Underground, said Tube and bus fares were likely to rise by an average of about 4.3 per cent in January and that an announcement could be expected within the next four weeks. Passenger numbers have risen on the underground network by 6 per cent in the last year.

Despite this increase, Mr Ford said the Underground was still lobbying to get more money from the Government to deal with the £1.2bn maintenance backlog. Underground chiefs have also tried to persuade the Government to hand it money in three-year lumps rather than annually in an attempt to avoid a sell-off.

— Randeep Ramesh, Transport Correspondent

## Talcum warning for women

Women should not use talcum powder on their lower abdomen or around their genital region, a cancer specialist warned yesterday.

Dr David Oram, from St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, questioned the safety of talcum powder in light of research suggesting it can migrate to the ovaries.

Appearing on BBC1's *Face Value* programme last night he said: "Interest in linkage between talc and ovarian cancer was prompted some years ago by the finding of talc granules actually in ovarian cancer tumours themselves, and on close inspection talc granules can be found in up to 75 per cent of ovarian cancers. So yes, there might be a linkage."

Researchers at Yale University in the United States had interviewed 1,000 women and found that those with ovarian cancer were 42 per cent more likely to have applied talc.

## Boy, 12, held over beating

A 12-year-old boy is among five people being questioned about the attempted murder of a man who was beaten with a baseball bat while trying to protect his disabled father, police said last night.

Three men, a 17-year-old youth and the youngster are being quizzed about the attack on Lee Holmes, 27, who remains in a coma at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital, police said. The victim's fiancée, Lyn Garner, 25, and father Frederick, 64, were at his bedside last night. Police arrested five people following the attack on Monday in Low Hill, Wolverhampton.

## Further group of Slovak gypsies arrives



A Czech family, recently arrived from Prague, outside their bed and breakfast hotel in Dover yesterday Photograph: AP

A family of Slovakian gypsies has arrived at the Essex port of Harwich and applied for asylum. It is believed to be the first of the latest wave of arrivals to choose an entry point other than Kent.

Two adults and two children have been granted temporary residence while their claims are considered. Another family which also arrived in Harwich last week has been sent back to Eastern Europe.

However, a Home Office spokesman said they were not arriving in the same numbers as in Dover, where around 800 arrivals from the Czech and Slovak Republics have put local authority budgets under strain. Sandy Bruce-Lockhart, the Kent county council leader, and Mike Pitt, the council's chief executive, will meet Mike O'Brien, the Home Office minister, to-

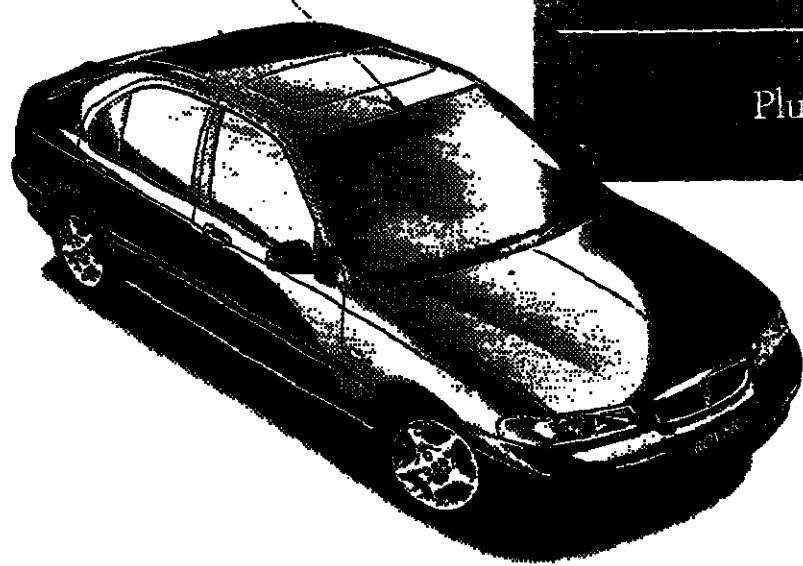
morrow to repeat calls for extra funding. Thirty more gypsies arrived in Dover by ferry yesterday afternoon. Voluntary workers in Calais said 61 were sleeping rough at the French ferry terminals after being refused entry to Britain. Veronique Desenclos, a restaurateur, said three volunteers were taking the families food twice a day and medicine for two sick children.

A Home Office spokesman rejected suggestions in Czech newspapers that the Government was considering introducing a visa system in response to the problems. But a review of the 1996 Asylum Act was underway to make it better, faster and fairer. Of 140 cases of Czech and Slovak gypsies considered by the Home Office so far this year, none has been granted asylum.

— Louise Jury

## Hard edge

Microsoft has been accused by the US Justice Department of using its commercial weight to break trust promises. But the company's lawyer, Charles A. S. Jones, Editor, the software isn't being fought in court — it's happening on your desktop.

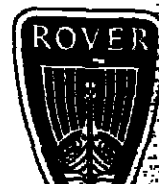


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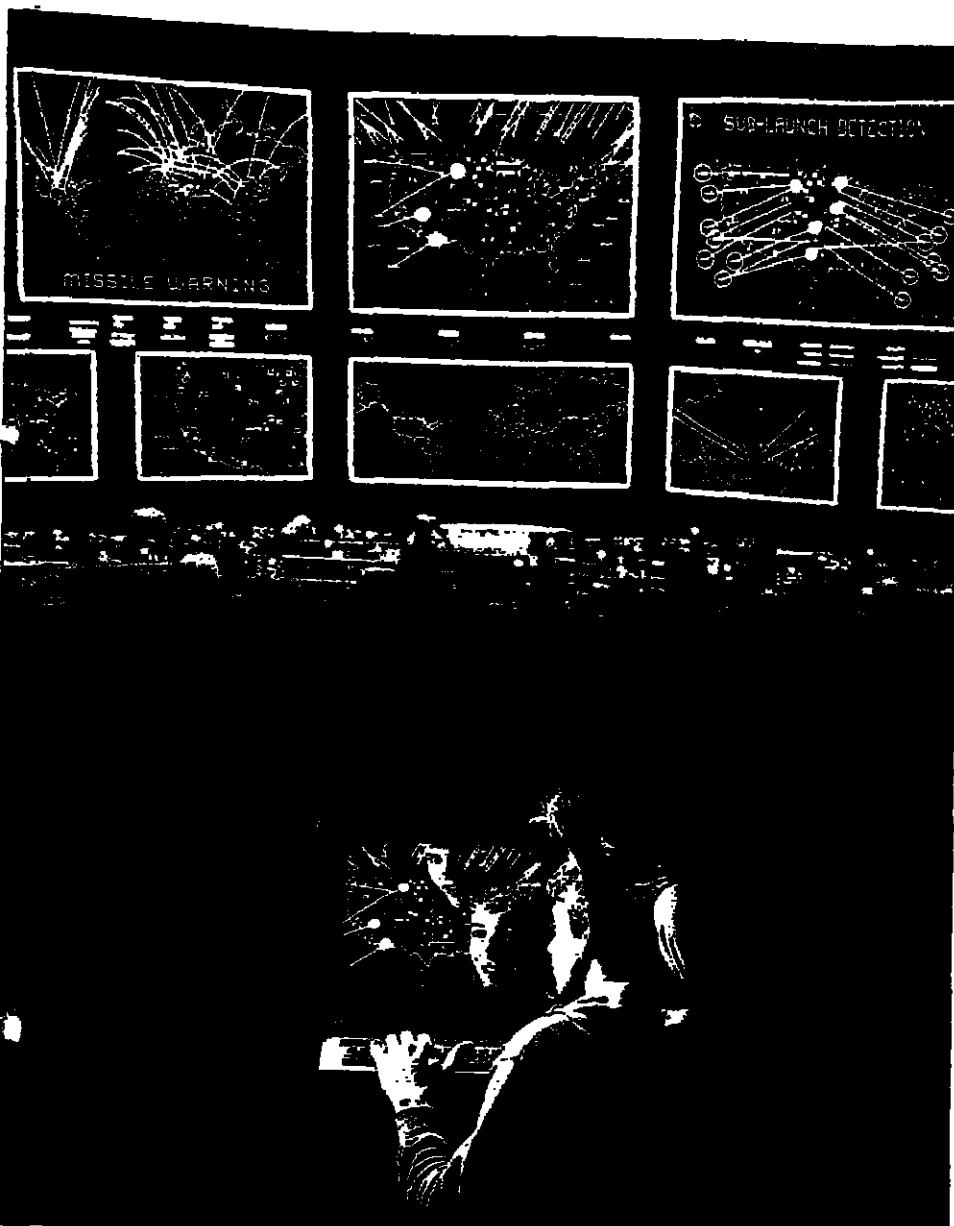
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# 7/TECHNOLOGY



Cybergeddon: The film Wargames, about a boy who hacks in to the Pentagon

## US lives in fear of keystroke killers

Forget about missiles, bombs and outlaw militias armed to the teeth. The United States faces another threat that is invisible, but potentially even more lethal. According to a report delivered to President Clinton this week, the most powerful state in the world could be laid low by the flick of a cyber-terrorist's switch. Mary Dejevsky considers the implications.

For obvious reasons, the report - the fruit of six months' work by a presidential commission chaired by a retired air-force general, Robert Marsh - is highly classified. Even the sketchy findings that have emerged, however, illustrate the size of the problem. "The knowledge is available," Gen Marsh says, "to do serious harm."

That could include a power black-out eliminating crucial hours of trading, and possibly months and years of records, on Wall Street. It could include redirecting computer-pro-

grammed military hardware, retargeting missiles, taking out military communications systems. It could include inducing flooding or drought by sabotaging water and sewage plants, disruption to urban power systems or air-traffic control, the diversion of all state revenue from the Internal Revenue Service. Now or in the future, all this - and more - could be done by just a few, even one individual, from a distance, and they would not even have to be in the United States.

For a country relatively free from terrorist attack inside its borders, news of this vulnerability comes as a shock. The more computerised, the more technologically sophisticated they become, they are being told, the more vulnerable they are to cyber-terrorism.

Some measures have been quickly introduced: security was increased at reservoirs this year after an unconfirmed threat to a major West Coast installation. There has also been discussion on protecting air-traffic control computers and the national emergency telephone number, 911, after hackers immobilised the system by flooding it with repeat calls.

Among the Marsh commis-

sion's recommendations are a doubling of spending on combating computer terrorism (from the current £160m), the formation of an office to assess the potential threat to computer networks in public and private sectors, and enhanced co-operation between the private computer sector and government departments. Within the limits of what is unclassified, President Bill Clinton is expected to announce today the measures he will propose to Congress.

One of the commission's major recommendations is likely to run into difficulty. It is said to support a call by the head of the FBI, Louis Freeh, that the government impose strict regulation on encryption technology, specifically for reasons of national security.

This, however, is currently the subject of fierce dispute, with computer and software manufacturers arguing that regulation will stifle technological development and harm US exports.

Until this disagreement is resolved - and it is unlikely to be soon - the extent of government-private sector co-operation on combating cyber-terrorism is likely to be limited.

## Hard edge that helps Microsoft stay one jump ahead

Microsoft has been accused by the US Justice Department of using its commercial weight to break anti-trust promises. But, says Charles Arthur, Science Editor, the software war isn't being fought in court - it's happening on your desktop.

"You have another browser already installed. Do you want to make Internet Explorer 4 your default browser?"

It's a gentle-sounding inquiry, which pops up on the computer screen if you get a copy of Microsoft's new Internet Web browser, usually referred to as "IE4".

But such a request is a common method of pushing out the opposition by making you forget it exists.

Once IE4 is your default, you are unlikely to go back to the rival product; as much as anything because, people have discovered through bitter experience, it's almost impossible to undo the changes which IE4 makes to the settings on your computer if you answer "yes" to its question.

Complaints to this effect litter the discussion groups on the Internet.

Who loses? The computer

user, who can be severely inconvenienced, and the rival software maker - almost always Netscape's Communicator, the Web browser from the comparative newcomer based in Mountain View, California.

Netscape has about 80 per cent of the market for browsers, even though Microsoft has used its financial might to offer the Internet Explorer range for free - giving the product away to get market share.

Netscape has cried foul repeatedly.

But the Microsoft juggernaut is increasingly able to use the breadth of its output - its operating systems, office software and Internet applications - to cross-subsidise new products and stay a jump ahead of rivals who want to outdo it in various market niches.

The Department of Justice wants to fine it \$1m per day, claiming that Microsoft is insisting that computer manufacturers must install IE4 on their machines if they put the Windows 95 operating system on it.

That would break promises made in 1995, when the justice department last took an intensive look at Bill Gates's company.

In a statement, Mr Gates said: "It would be a great disservice to our customers if Microsoft did not enhance Windows with Internet-related

features, and rapidly distribute updated versions of Windows through PC manufacturers."

It's classic Gates - saying that he didn't want to, but the customers forced him to.

Anyway, from next year, those 1995 promises will be empty: Microsoft plans to launch a new package, "Windows 98" (probably with another name), which will incorporate IE4 in its code.

But Microsoft has never been one to give rivals an even break.

In the mid-1980s when Digital Research and Microsoft were offering rival Windows-like operating systems, any Microsoft word-processing or spreadsheet software run on a Digital Research system would announce "Non-fatal error detected" - mystifying and worrying users.

The "error", it turned out, was not to use Microsoft's operating system.

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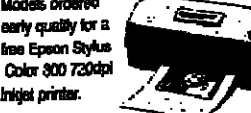
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## Straw calls Euro summit on football hooliganism

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has called Europe's police chiefs to a seminar on football hooliganism in an attempt to curb violence at next year's World Cup in France.

Just as memories of carnage at Heysel Stadium were starting to fade, along came the England/Italy game in Rome and English fans were once again synonymous with thuggery.

Criticism of the Italian police by Tony Banks, the sports minister, pleased aggrieved fans at home, but alarmed football and security chiefs abroad.

Mr Straw hopes that the call for European co-operation - an invitation to a seminar in his Blackburn constituency - will show foreign counterparts that he is committed to solving the problem.

The invitation came just 48 hours after Mr Straw announced the Government was considering changes in the law to prevent troublemakers travelling abroad. His advisers believe such a move will help the English bid to host the World Cup in 2006. The Blackburn summit, organised as part

of Britain's forthcoming presidency of the European Union, is also likely to include experts on hooliganism and crowd control, including academics and football officials.

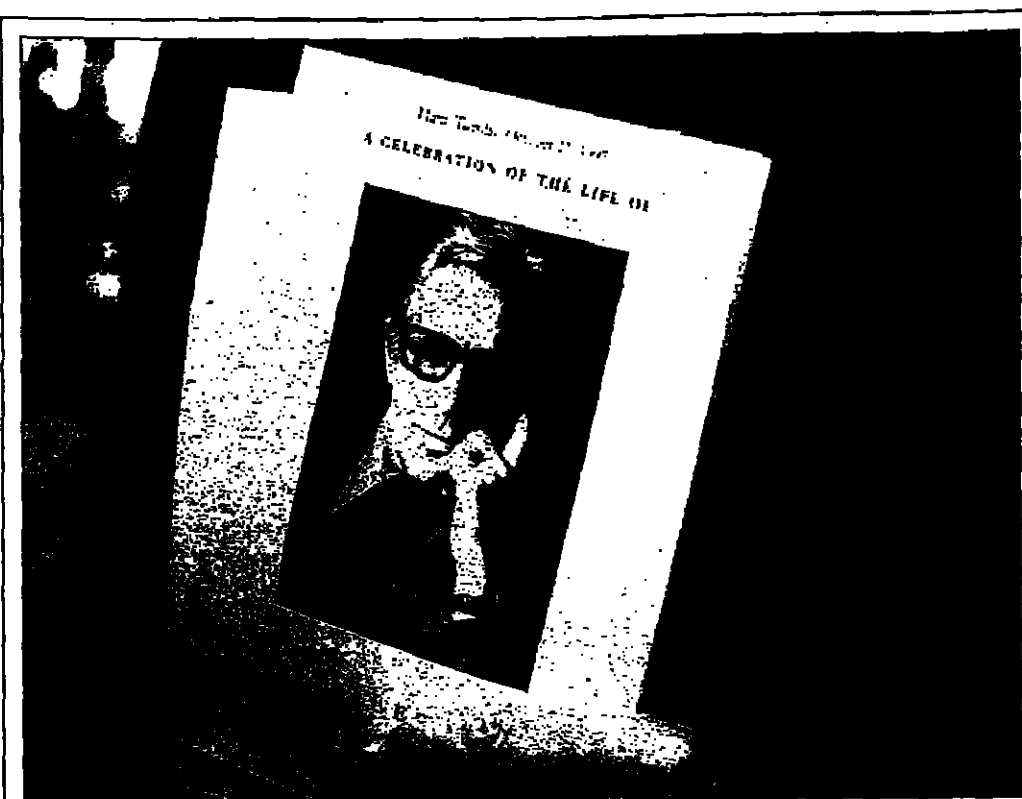
Mr Straw said: "The message has got to go out that we will do everything we can to undermine and disrupt the activities of those who have no interest in seeing football tournaments go ahead, but simply in committing violence."

"We will be offering every possible assistance to the French authorities and working closely on practical measures to ensure that the terrible scenes witnessed in Rome recently are not repeated."

The Home Secretary said that he was also considering legislation to stop a hardcore gang of thugs travelling to the World Cup finals in France next summer.

Mr Banks has previously stated that there is an urgent need to stop ringleaders travelling abroad. He has also questioned "so-called responsible" ticket agencies that sold English fans tickets from Italian sources. The matter is expected to be discussed.

- Kim Sengupta



Actor William Gaunt and poets P J Kavanagh and Brian Patten were among 200 people who paid tribute to writer Laurie Lee at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London, yesterday. The author of the best-selling book *Cider With Rosie* died in May, aged 83. Photograph: Rui Xavier

## BBC staff shop for archive material

A Kafkaesque quirk in the BBC's internal market means that despite the corporation having the world's largest musical archive, staff on radio news programmes find it cheaper to go out and buy CDs from HMV than borrow them from the in-house library.

The editors of the *Today* programme, *The World at One*, *PM*, *The World Tonight* and *The World this Weekend* have been forced to ban their staff from using BBC libraries, according to a letter from the staff of the programmes to the BBC's internal newspaper *Ariel*.

To borrow a CD from the BBC's music libraries costs the programmes a £25 research fee and £11 per item loaned. By comparison, HMV on Oxford Street will charge between £9 and £14, depending on how recently a CD was released.

"The world's most comprehensive audio archives are effectively closed to us," the letter from the staff says. "How can we produce obituaries, historical mini-documentaries, political profiles and the like without archive material?"

"This is an utter absurdity," it continues. "The quality of our output will inevitably suffer as a result. The libraries we used

to depend upon will find themselves bereft of customers, will no doubt then be deemed 'financially non-viable' and probably close. What a triumph for the internal market."

The BBC claims that the reporters' figures are wrong and that the cost of borrowing a music CD is only £7.50. Peter Cox, the head of the BBC's Information and Archives department, admits £7.50 is too high and claims a review of charges is being conducted so they can be reduced next year.

But the BBC also claims that charges were introduced to stop staff using its libraries so much. It says library use increased 23 per cent this year without an increase in programme output.

The letter is the second recent sign of unhappiness within Radio 4's news team at the BBC's management changes.

Last month, the radio network's star news readers signed a letter and senior editors threatened to resign in protest at plans to merge the management of their programmes under four super-editors who would work across television and radio.

Paul McCann  
Media Correspondent

## Man in Russell murder case remanded in custody

A 37-year-old man appeared in court yesterday charged with the murders of Lin Russell and her six-year-old daughter Megan. Michael Stone, 37, of Gillingham, Kent, was also accused of the attempted murder of Mrs Russell's elder daughter, Josie, now 10.

Mr Stone, wearing a grey jumper, spoke only to confirm his name and address when he appeared before Medway magistrates in Chatham.

No application for bail was made during the five-minute hearing and Mr Stone was remanded in custody until next Wednesday.

Mrs Russell and her daughters were attacked in Chillingham, Kent, as they walked home from a school swimming gala along an isolated footpath on 9 July last year.

Josie Russell, then nine, was the only survivor of the hammer attack and is recovering at home in north Wales with her father, Shaun. After the hearing Mr Stone's solicitor, Derek Hayward, told reporters that his client maintained his innocence.

Mr Hayward said in a statement: "Michael Stone would like to make it clear that he is innocent of all these offences. This is a matter which has been continually denied by him throughout all his police interviews."

## Bishops review Diana tribute

Britain's bishops yesterday held an inquest into the Church of England's handling of the death and funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, amid claims that it failed to respond adequately to the nation's outpouring of grief.

The House of Bishops, the Church's most influential decision-making body met for the first time since the princess's death.

A statement issued after the meeting, which was chaired by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, read: "The House reflected on what the experience of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, and the

events around it said about developments in our society and for the mission of the Church. They noted the ways in which the funeral and events helped to focus public grief and to remind people of the hope of resurrection to new life with Christ, which Christ by his death opened to us all."

Many bishops are known to be concerned about the inadequacy of the Church's response to her death. The Westminster Abbey service, which did not feature a sermon, or mention of the Resurrection, appalled many traditional churchmen.

- Clare Gomer

## 'Candle' spins to world record

"Candle In The Wind '97", Elton John's tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales, was yesterday declared the biggest-selling single in the world. The *Guinness Book of Records* said the charity record, a double A side with "Something In The Way You Look Tonight", had shipped 31.8 million copies around the world.

It meant it had overtaken "White Christmas", by Bing Crosby, the previous highest seller with an estimated 30 million sales world-wide. The difference was that the Crosby song's sales were achieved over the 55 years since it was released, while "Candle In The Wind" took 37 days to pass its total.

## DAILY POEM

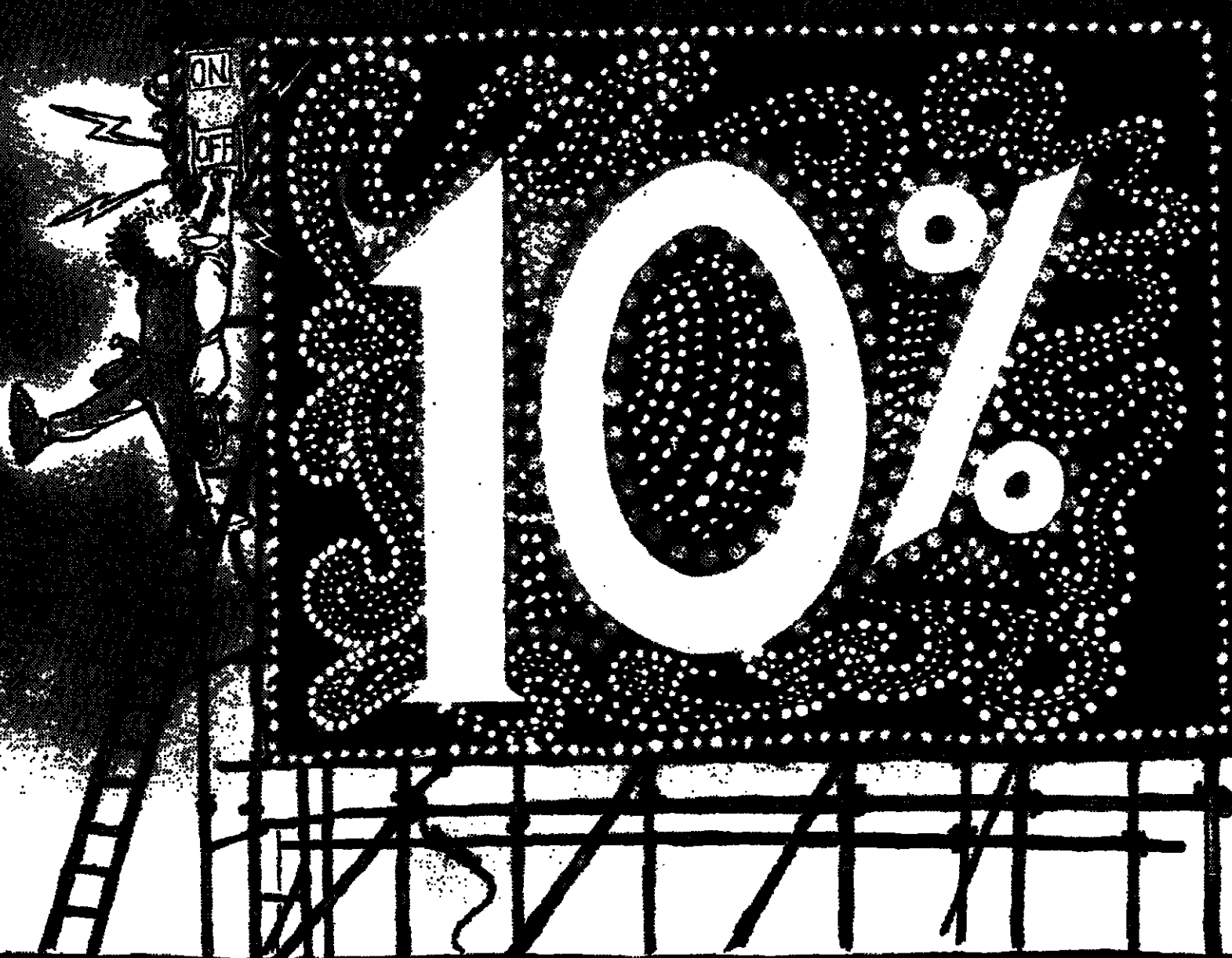
### On My First Son

by Ben Jonson

Farewell, thou child of my right hand, and joy;  
My sin was too much hope of thee, loved boy.  
Seven years thou wert lent to me, and I thee pay,  
Exacted by thy fate, on the just day.  
Oh, could I lose all father now! For why  
Will man lament the state he should envy?  
To have so soon 'scaped world's and flesh's rage,  
And, if no other misery, yet age?  
Rest in soft peace, and, asked, say here doth lie  
Ben Jonson his best piece of poetry;  
For whose sake, henceforth, all his vows be such,  
As what he loves may never like too much.

This week's poems come from *Poets on Poets*, edited by Nick Rennison and Michael Schmidt (£9.95). In this 400-page anthology, produced by Carcanet Press in association with Waterstone's, almost 100 modern poets present work from poets of the past. Ben Jonson is introduced by Thom Gunn.

# How much is BT cutting off national evening calls?



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# Why women are left holding the turkey at Christmas

The traditional features that make Christmas special are disappearing and it is being left to women to create a 'magical' time for their families, according to a report. Paul McCann looks at the reality of the modern festive season.

In Betjeman's words, "oafish louts remember mum" at Christmas. In the Nineties they have more than ever to remember and be grateful for. A report suggests that the traditional festive season has been replaced by a "lifestyle" season where women are under pressure to re-create the magic through months of hard work. Fifty per cent of women under 55 have children under 10 years old and have become the slaves of Christmas, according to research by advertising agency J Walter Thompson. The agency has found that while 80 per cent of men look on Christmas as "a good break" only 35 per cent of women agree with them.

"Men look at Christmas as an opportunity to put their feet up and let it come to them," says Oscar Nieboer, a director of JWT. "But women are the

slaves, and the drivers of Christmas. They are prepared to go to extreme lengths in terms of early planning, costs and stress to create magic for their children."

The research found that the women have to create the magic of Christmas themselves because the traditional markers of the season are losing their importance. In the Nineties only 70 per cent of us spend Christmas with our extended family compared with 90 per cent who did so in the Sixties.

Religion has lost its place and only 17 per cent of people go to church on Christmas Day and only 7 per cent believe it is still a religious festival.

And the Queen's address to the nation has also lost its importance, with only 39 per cent of the country watching her speech. Instead, JWT found that the costs of Christmas are outstripping inflation because people are spending more on luxury items so they can show off to family and friends during the holidays.

"The average cost of Christmas is now £440," says Mr Nieboer. "But it is going up because the costs of booze and luxury goods have gone up faster than inflation. Then there are the style factors. More people are buying real trees. And they are decorating them with few-

er garish tinsels and decorations and are instead going in for more tasteful and more expensive decorations, like Victoriana, to decorate their homes."

"People see Christmas as an opportunity to showcase their image, their lifestyle and their wealth, and it is costing them."

Yet the research found that despite the greater cost and stress, more people than ever are saying they enjoy and look forward to Christmas.

"Almost 92 per cent of people say they look forward to it and enjoy it," says Mr Nieboer. "Amazingly, that is more than say they enjoy sex."

The stresses of the season affect different parts of the country to different degrees. JWT found that 38 per cent of Scots find it a strain compared with just 26 per cent in the South of England. The agency believes it is harder work for the Scottish because New Year, or Hogmanay, is a bigger family celebration than in England so the Scots cannot start to relax on Boxing Day.

JWT did find women for whom the season is more relaxed. A quarter of young women who do not have children see it as a time to over-indulge and have fun, while the quarter with children over 10 are more relaxed about the season.



Shop early: Christmas was already in evidence at Brent Cross, north London, yesterday Photograph: Philip Meech

## Our guide to yule-tide survival

1. Tell your family you are helping out in a soup kitchen. (This guarantees that they will feel too guilty to persuade you otherwise). Then spend your Christmas money on a stay at Champneys.
2. If bludgeoned into cooking for the family, suggest that all members contribute one dish. With a big enough family, you will be left with only the brussels sprouts, and after-dinner mints. (And with a bit of luck you'll get those under the tree).
3. Alternatively, buy in all the food from Marks & Spencers. Ask relatives for M&S vouchers for Christmas and pay off the resulting overdraft by living on the proceeds.
4. Book a round-the-world ticket and travel the wrong way through the time zones, thereby bypassing Christmas altogether.
5. Tell your relatives that you are not giving or receiving presents this year and suggest they make an alternative donation to charity, preferably the Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. Watch as you are never asked to do Christmas again.
6. Suggest that instead of television, this year you will spend Christmas Day singing Christmas carols, accompanied by your karaoke tapes of Cliff Richard and the St Winifred School Choir (ditto).
7. Spread a rumour that Christmas may never again be mentioned in your presence, following that nasty episode with the stocking, the grotto and the Christmas candle.
8. Opt out altogether. Spend the Christmas vacation in a hot, Muslim country. If it's good enough for Jemima Khan...
9. Alternatively, convert to Islam. Or Buddhism. Or Hinduism. Taoism. Oh come on, anything without the word Christ in front.
10. Give all members of your family a tangerine and some nuts. Tell them you are rediscovering the true spirit of Christmas. Besides, it's the thought that counts.

## TEN REALITIES OF THE FESTIVE SEASON

1. **Whose birthday?** Only 17 per cent of people go to church on Christmas Day. Only 7 per cent agree it is religious.
2. **Make that a 3lb turkey:** Christmas is less family driven. Only 70 per cent spend it with extended family.
3. **Queen in your parlour:** Only 39 per cent of people now watch the Queen's Speech.
4. **Christmas in November:** November is the biggest month for

advertising. More than £400m was spent in November last year.

5. **Seasonal suntan lotion:** Most people think Christmas starts too early in the shops - 56 per cent want it pushed into December.

6. **Santa's overdraft:** The average cost of the season is £440 - £234 on gifts, £132 on food and £74 on extras.

7. **Bigger than Blair:** More people enjoy Christmas than ever - al-

most 92 per cent.

8. **St Nick is a Sassenach:** 38 per cent of Scots think Christmas is a strain compared with 26 per cent in the South of England.

9. **Thanks dad:** Only 35 per cent of women agree Christmas is a good break, while 79 per cent of men think that it is.

10. **Couch roast potato:** A fifth of the country watches more than 10 hours of television on Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

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## Future of Russia's youth goes up in smoke

Ravaged by ill health, Russia's population is falling at such speed that one senior official has compared the crisis to a war. Drink, economic decline and disease have taken their toll - but so have cigarettes. Despite this, international tobacco companies are using ever more ruthless techniques to turn young Russians into smokers. Phil Reeves reports from Moscow.

Life offers few pleasures for the pupils of School No 1041. The streets of the surrounding industrial zone are about as cheerful as the cold, black waters of the nearby Moscow River. Yet they have one boast, one privilege that sets them apart from their peers: they are allowed to smoke.

Not long ago, the school authorities gave up a losing struggle, and decided to allow them cigarettes so long as they had written permission from their parents. Having acquired that consent (which they say they usually forged), the kids were issued with a document confirming that they were on the "smokers' list".

Thus, they were able to light up during break without fear of punishment. Thus, too, was one small battle lost in the long war to prevent Russia's young from suffering the catastrophic fate of their parents. Russia's demographic crisis lopped around 450,000 from the total Russian population last year alone.

Scenes such as these horrify those officials and medical organisations who are

fighting to reverse a post-Soviet collapse in Russia's health, which has reduced the average life expectancy for a male to a mere 58. Cardiovascular disease is responsible for 1,343 deaths per 100,000 Russian men, compared with 704 in Britain and 330 in France.

Yet the country carries on puffing away, consuming 250 billion cigarettes a year. Surveys suggest that smoking among children is rife: one recently found that more than half of the 16- and 17-year-olds in Moscow's schools were smokers.

Such statistics have done nothing to deter the giant Western tobacco companies, who contribute some 170 billion cigarettes to Russia's annual ashtray. Harried by lawsuits and anti-smoking campaigns in the West, they have descended in force on the former Soviet Union to engage in a battle for business that is being waged with large amounts of cash and cunning.

Sensing a growing nationalist sentiment among Russians, R.J. Reynolds, the US giant, launched a hugely popular brand called "Pyotr 1" - named after Tsar Peter the Great. Posters bearing the slogan "Strike Back" have appeared on billboards all over Moscow. This seems to be an appeal to the patriotic Russian consumer to fight back against Western imports, but the cigarettes - Yava Golds - are the work of a company controlled by British American Tobacco.

For the cigarette manufacturers, Russia is prime territory, a sprawling new frontier where there are few rules. They face little scrutiny by the media; social tolerance to smoking is high, and there is no strong, organised anti-smoking lobby. The tobacco industry has therefore been able to use brazen techniques in its quest for customers - especially in the more remote areas.



Get them young: Western tobacco firms are engaged in a battle for business among Russia's young people

Photograph: Nicolai Ignatiev/Network

This summer, the US tobacco giant, Philip Morris, sent a travelling disco to the Siberian city of Novosibirsk. It had professional dancers, a lavish sound, light and video system, and young staff clad, of course, in Marlboro insignia. In an otherwise grimy and dull city, with little entertainment for the young, the roadshow was a magnetic splash of colour, a dazzling missionary from the new world to the old. The Marlboro label was everywhere - on the tent, on the tables, on the walls.

"In order to get in you had to produce five packs of Marlboros, three if you were

a student," said John Brier, an American anti-smoking activist who spent a month in the city, and videotaped the disco.

"You showed your packs at the gate. You couldn't say 'I don't smoke. Can I pay to get in?' You had to have the cigarettes. They advertised it consistently for a month. It was on the radio. There were flyers on light poles. Every night there were hundreds of people, sometimes a thousand on weekends."

Philip Morris protests its innocence. It claims that it is not trying to snare the young but to convert existing smokers to its brand; its hostesses are trained to check the

ID of anyone at the disco who appears to be under 18. The under-age were ejected, says the company. It takes such issues "very seriously"; it "does not want young people to smoke".

Mr Brier, a marketing consultant from Maine, disagrees. He says the show was clearly aimed at young people. "People don't start smoking after the age of 20 - only 1 per cent do. The only way is to get the young kids hooked. They have to get cigarettes in the hands of young people before they're old enough and smart enough to make an informed decision."

So far, the Russian government is doing little to protect the consumer. It has larger structural problems to deal with, such as a chaotic and incomplete legal system, massive tax evasion, official corruption and organised crime.

Hope resides abroad. The anti-smoking lobby in the US is pressuring Congress to allocate money from a proposed \$368bn settlement over tobacco litigation to protecting the foreign targets of US tobacco companies whom they accuse of recruiting young smokers in countries where legal restraints are not yet in place.

## Americans eat themselves to death

If there were a list of "America's most hated", Michael Fumento's name would undoubtedly be on it this week. A trim, if stocky, thirty-something attached to a Washington think-tank, he has had the nerve to publish a book telling Americans to eat less. Mary Dejevsky went to meet him.

What is the biggest threat to public health in America? If you believed US television commercials and tracked recent legislation, you would probably say smoking, Aids and breast cancer, in that order. But Michael Fumento, a former science journalist, says No. Aids and breast cancer are way down the pecking order; smoking may kill 400,000 Americans a year - making it the biggest single killer at the moment. But it is fast being overtaken by obesity, which he calls the "most common chronic health problem in America".

To a European visiting almost anywhere in the United States, this might seem to be a simple statement of the obvious. The presence of so many people so gloriously overweight must surely cost insurance companies and the Exchequer huge amounts, not to speak of individuals' own suffering.

So it does, says Fumento. Obesity contributes to the grow-

ing incidence of heart disease, diabetes, probably also certain types of cancer, and to general ill health. But no one likes to say so. It offends too many people: the one-third of the population - probably half by the end of the century if his projections are correct - that tip the scales more than 20 per cent heavier than the recommended weight for their height.

Before Fumento's book, you could search the shelves of America's bookshops, which are stuffed with health and diet books, without finding a single volume addressing obesity as a health issue. It is not something either the former surgeon-general (the post is vacant) or the Health Secretary, Donna Shalala, has mentioned.

Fumento offers two explanations: first, obesity is so prevalent and America so insular that people have simply stopped noticing it. "It's off the radar," he says. He only noticed the problem himself when he went to Europe and wondered why so many people were so thin. Overweight in America is not overweight, it is normal.

His other explanation, however, is that as people have got fatter, fat has become a political issue. Increasingly, groups professing to speak for the overweight are complaining about discrimination and calling for equal opportunities. "Fat is beautiful," they say, and compare their "disadvantaged" situation with that of ethnic minorities and women. They command vocal support from civil liberties groups and the political left.

In getting his message across, Mr Fumento's big problem is that he comes from the right, and in arguing for personal responsibility is also seen as trying to re-stigmatise fatness. As someone who admits to having had a weight problem several years ago, he argues that weight, unlike sex or skin colour, is something an individual can change with the application of a little information, discipline and above all moderation.

Fumento blames the government and the food manufacturers for "low-fat faddism" - leading Americans to believe that they will stay or become

slim by eating low-fat products. No one tells them, he says, that if they eat an excessive amount of anything, they will get fat. Thanks to soft drinks, biscuits, and snacks - all labelled low-fat, fat-free, or increasingly, "guilt-free" - Americans consume an average of half a pound of sugar a day.

These damning facts, however - uncontested even in hostile reviews - have been drowned in the outrage unleashed by the author's very suggestion that Americans should, and could, make themselves thinner.

Michael Fumento, *"The Fat of the Land"*, Viking, New York, 1997. \$25.95.

## Turn The Depths Of Despair Into Seas Of Hope....

More than 1000 whales will be brutally killed in the next 12 months.

This week, the International Whaling Commission (IWC), meets in Monaco to debate the future of the world's remaining whales.

Eleven years after the IWC agreed a moratorium on commercial whaling, Norway and Japan are 'bending the rules' to catch an ever-increasing number of whales.

Norway exempted itself from the moratorium and ignores the wishes of its neighbours in the European Union who stopped whaling long ago. Japan is defying the wishes of the nations of the world by catching whales for so-called "scientific" purposes in the Southern Ocean sanctuary.

On behalf of IFAW's 500,000 supporters in the UK we encourage the establishment of a Global Ocean Sanctuary to protect whales in all waters.

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## Defence team split over nanny giving evidence



Louise Woodward: The nanny is known to be keen to speak for herself

Photograph: Tesfaye Bazuayehu/AP

The trial of Louise Woodward is reaching a critical stage. There is no mistaking the mood of confidence on the defence bench, and David Osborne in Boston asks whether it needs to put the British nanny on the stand.

Divisions have arisen inside the defence camp over whether Louise Woodward, accused of murdering the baby in her care while working as a nanny in Boston, Massachusetts, should be brought to the stand to testify on her own behalf.

Barry Scheck, who has had a pivotal role as the lead for the defence on the medical issues in the case, is known to feel uncomfortable about a pledge made to the jury at the outset of the trial by his colleague, Andrew Good, to call Ms Woodward herself as a defence witness.

Sources close to the defence confirmed yesterday that Mr Scheck believes that the defence has scored enough points since opening its case last Friday to make bringing Ms Woodward to the stand unnecessary and indeed far too risky. Mr Good, however, has indicated that his promise to the jury will be honoured.

Alisa Gean, the head of neuro-radiology at San Francisco General Hospital, yesterday testified that the brain scans of the victim, Matthew Eappen, offered no evidence of either shaken baby syndrome or of a traumatic impact to his head on 4 February, as alleged by the prosecution.

The testimony of both Dr Gean and an earlier medical witness, Jan Leestma, contradicted the core of the first-degree murder charge, namely that Ms Woodward assaulted Matthew with sufficient force on 4 February to cause his death five days later.

Dr Gean, who was paid \$650 (£406) an hour to testify, said under cross-examination that she first reached her conclu-

sions after a 15-minute assessment of the scans. What she saw then, she said, was "chronic sub-dural haematoma (blood clot) with evidence of acute re-bleeding". She also repeated her testimony that an event before 4 February caused the clot, which subsequently "oozed" and re-bled.

Ms Woodward is known to be eager to come forward to speak for herself and could even have the final say on whether she will do so. But she has been told to expect a ferocious grilling from the prosecution and that any cracking in her composure could damage her case. In cases where the charges are as grave as first-degree murder, it is unusual in the US for defendants to testify on their own behalf.

An indication of the shifting tactics of the defence has been the timing of testimony by Louise's mother, Susan Woodward. Originally scheduled to be the first witness for the defence last Friday, Mrs Woodward has since been waiting outside the courtroom as the focus has been trained on the medical evidence.

## Pair charged with care home deaths

A nurse and a doctor have been charged with killing 22 elderly people at a nursing home in one of the world's largest cases of euthanasia-related deaths. Kim Sengupta examines the grim tale unfolding in Denmark.

The news of the mass killings in a Denmark nursing home has shocked the country and brought into grim focus the emotive issue of euthanasia.

The victims, 15 women and seven men aged 65 to 97, died after injections of a morphine-based drug allegedly administered by the nurse.

Detectives referred to the killings as "euthanasia", but did not offer evidence to show if those who had died had requested help from the pair. Both euthanasia and assisted suicide are illegal in Denmark.

The nurse is charged with murder, and theft and embezzlement of 629,000 kroner (£58,240) from nursing home patients. The doctor was charged on Monday with breach of duty and negligent homicide. Neither has been named.

The manager of the nursing

home in Copenhagen declined to comment on the case, apart from saying he was shocked.

Jan Brockhoff, a member of a local council which advises city authorities on matters concerning the elderly, said the investigation began in February.

"The family of a person who died there contacted the council about some theft but also because the death itself was unnatural," he said.

"We passed the information to the city officials and the investigation began shortly after."

Police said the killings took place at the state-run home between August 1994 and March this year. The nurse was sacked in March. The reason for her dismissal has not been disclosed.

In a tearful court appearance, the nurse denied the killings and said she had given the morphine-based medicine to patients on the orders of the doctor on most of the occasions. She admitted she had given injections to patients on her own initiative in one or two cases.

Police said the killings came to light during an investigation of fraud at the home. In the initial investigation, Copenhagen medical authorities noticed that there had been eight deaths in the nurse's department this year while only one person had died in similar department.

## E.coli trial told of safety checks before party buffet

The host of an 18th birthday party told a court yesterday how he used himself as a guinea pig to save his guests from eating meat infected with the deadly *E.coli* bacterium.

William McFarlane sampled meat from John Barr's butcher's shop in Wisbaw, Larkshire, after hearing reports that it had been linked to what turned out to be Scotland's worst food-poisoning outbreak in which 20 people died. After several hours he was fine, he told Hamilton Sheriff Court, and so the party went ahead.

Sampling the meat was only one of several measures taken by the McFarlane family to ensure that the meat for their daughter Lauren's party was

safe. The court was told that a family relation, David Moon who bought the meat, rang Mr Barr and was told by the butcher that only corned beef and chopped ham were affected; he had bought ham, beef and turkey. Later, Fay McFarlane, Lauren's mother, received advice from the local hospital that the meat should be safe.

After the party many of the 106 guests fell ill, but none died.

Mr Barr, 52, is charged with "culpably, wilfully and recklessly" supplying meat to Mr Moon on 23 November, despite being warned by health officials the day before not to sell any cooked meats. He denies the charge.

The hearing continues.  
— Steve Boggan



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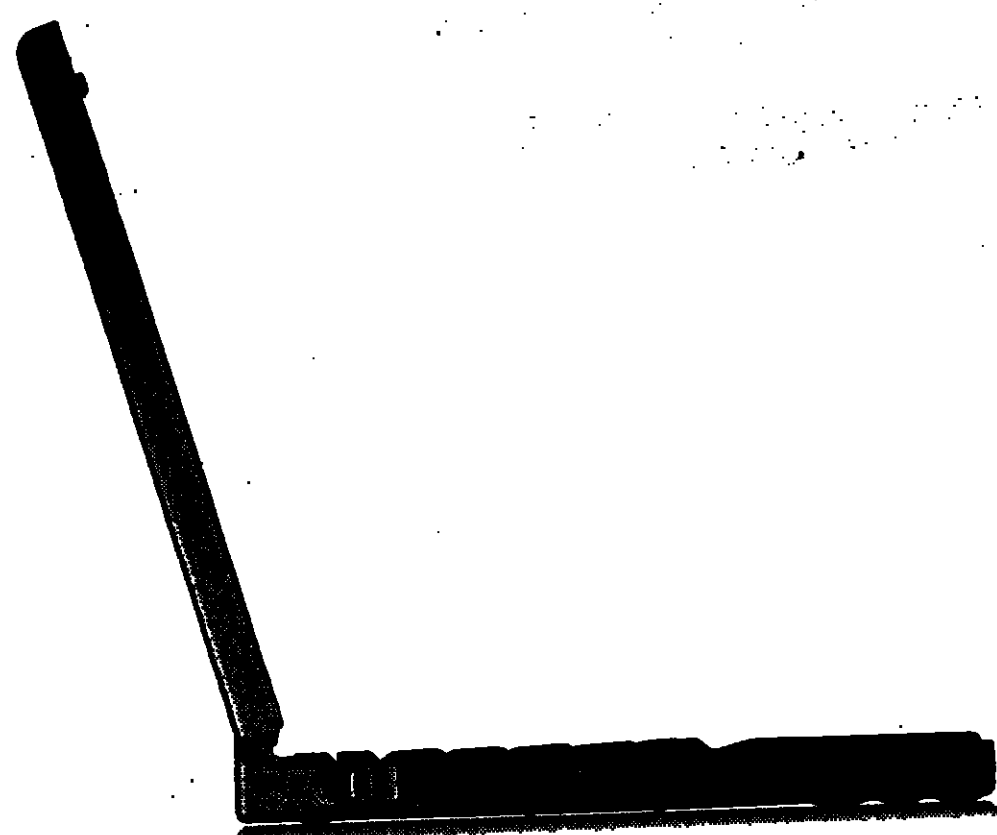
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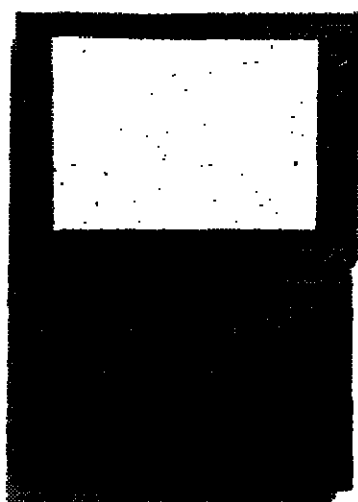


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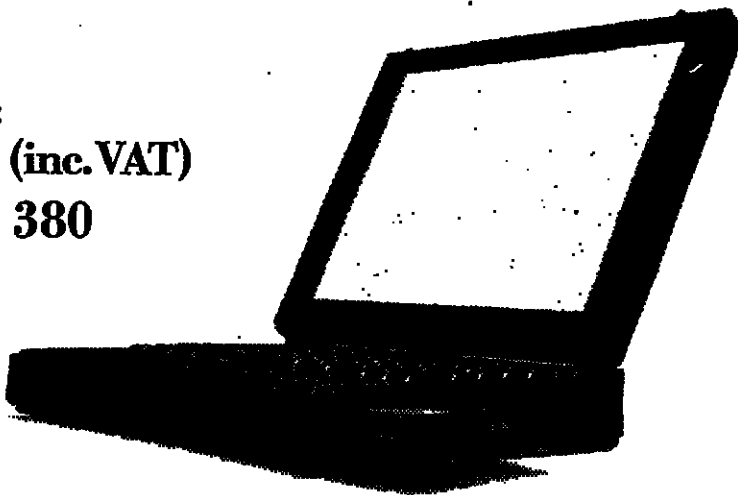
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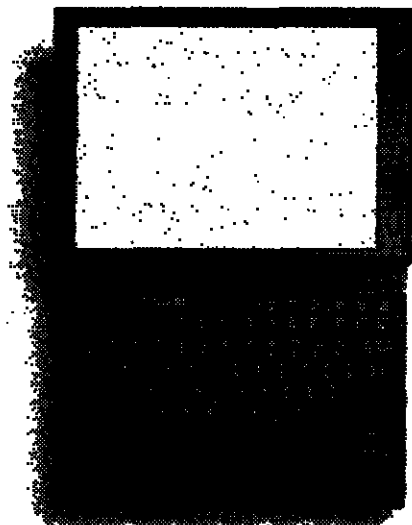
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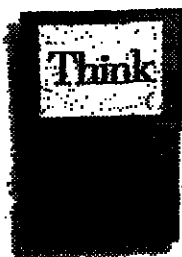
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## MPs horrified by living conditions in Montserrat

MPs who visited Montserrat last week are preparing a hard-hitting report on the crisis. They told *Frans* Abrams that many islanders were still living in appalling conditions.

Both the British and Monserranian governments are likely to face criticism from a House of Commons inquiry into the handling of the aftermath of volcanic eruptions on the island. Members of the Select Committee on International Development who visited the island last week have returned angry and upset despite finding some improvements since August.

Sick, elderly and disabled people left living in primitive conditions on Montserrat would be left stranded if the island's volcano underwent another major eruption, one member of the committee said.

Jenny Tonge, Liberal Democrat MP for Richmond Park, said she had been horrified to find 40 people, some of them so disabled they could do almost nothing for themselves, living in squalor in a church hall and sharing a single outside privy.

She said they would be almost impossible to bring to safety because with the air full of volcanic dust a helicopter would not be able to land. High winds also prevented boats from mooring at a temporary jetty in the north of the island.

At St Peter's Church one severely handicapped young woman was lying in a cot, screaming. Another woman was struggling to look after four children, including a three-month-old baby. Sir Kenneth Calman, the Government's chief medical adviser, has said babies should be taken off the island because of the dangers of silicosis, a lung disease which could be caused by volcanic dust.

Mrs Tonge, a hospital consultant before her election in May, said she had found the situation of some islanders "horrifying".

"They are British subjects, used to high standards of living. Whatever the political difficulties, they should be taken off the island in the next few days," she said.

Bernie Grant, Labour MP for Tottenham, said matters had improved slightly since he last visited in August, but were still "appalling".

## Tory hopes rest on evolution of Eastbourne man



Making waves: William Hague with his MPs in Eastbourne yesterday where he said the party must change to combat Labour. Photograph: Tom Pilson

William Hague yesterday held a bonding session at the seaside. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, found that the first lesson for Eastbourne Man, the new caring Conservative, is that size is not everything.

The Tory MPs were told to come dressed casually. Clearly this caused confusion yesterday when many resorted to the Old School Tie with corduroy trousers and a hacking jacket, the sort of outfit they wear in the country at weekends.

New Boy Howard Flight conceded defeat and turned up in his pinstriped suit. Mr Hague sported a tie and tweed jacket but later removed the tie when he got down to business.

Stephen Dorrell went over the top

with the sort of sloppy sweater favoured by new age travellers but the rest of the shadow cabinet, such as Michael Howard, went for slacks and blazers.

Archie Norman, the former Asda boss led the modernisers with a casual but expensive crumpled linen jacket and slacks.

"The party is split between those who wear jackets and ties and those like me who wear sweaters," said Michael Fabricant, in a sweatshirt bearing his Lichfield constituency logo.

The scene of this sartorially ambivalent gathering, the Grand Hotel, Eastbourne, might in time become as famous as the Selsdon Park Hotel, near Croydon. Ted Heath took the shadow cabinet there in January 1970 to rebuild the party around the themes that would be embraced by Margaret Thatcher: low taxation and low spending.

Harold Wilson attacked "Selsdon Man" as uncaring and ruthless but the Tories went on to win the election.

William Hague yesterday began the task of modernising the Tory image in a two-day bonding session with nearly all of his MPs at the retirement resort.

Mr Hague hopes Eastbourne Man will be a different kind of Conservative; more caring and more in touch with the Britain which gave Labour a landslide.

But the creatures who stumbled conspicuously yesterday from the Grand Hotel were having difficulty shaking off their Eighties past. Bob Tyrrell, chairman of the Henley Forecasting Centre which warned that Nineties man must change or die, told the MPs they had to catch up with the post-Diana era and "the feminisation of society".

Danny Finkelstein, the party's head of research, told the Tories in another of the closed sessions, that they needed to develop their "own clear purpose and mission" to win back power.

"We need to be able to respond to the way that society is changing, providing

an alternative to Labour as the party of economic modernisation and institutional stability, as opposed to institutional turmoil and economic protectionism."

Some of the grandees, including Michael Heseltine and John Major, had other pressing engagements. Nicholas Soames would have nothing to do with Eastbourne Man and stayed away "on a matter of principle".

The swots were soon evident, with Mr Howard shedding his jacket, intently taking down notes from a brief speech from the leader. Ken Clarke was on the back row with the rebels for the first day of school, but at least he did not play truant.

Mr Hague told them: "I want us to be the most experienced and effective parliamentarians this country has ever had. In time, we will turn Labour's greatest advantage, the size of their majority, into their greatest weakness."

The first lesson for Eastbourne Man is that size is not everything.

## Labour MEPs face disciplinary action over PR protest

Four Labour MEPs have been told they face disciplinary action unless they accept a controversial code of conduct by 3pm today.

The four, Ken Coates from Nottingham, Hugh Kerr from Essex and Hertfordshire, Alex Falconer from Mid-Scotland and Michael Hindley from Lancashire South, were all sent warning letters yesterday by their group's chief whip, Simon Murphy.

All had been publicly critical of the code, imposed by the party's national executive after MEPs declined to adopt it. It bans them from objecting openly to the government's plans for proportional representation in European elections.

However, the fury of the party leadership was vented mainly on Mr Coates, who told James Naughtie on Radio 4's *Today* programme that he could not be forced to support Labour's May manifesto, which promised PR. He had been elected under the 1994 European manifesto, whose pledges of full employment and other measures had been "systematically violated" by Tony Blair and Gordon Brown.

Afterwards he told *The Independent* that he did not expect to be disciplined. Mr Murphy's letter, which said he must promise to abide by the code or be disciplined, had been followed by one from Tom Sawyer, the party's general secretary, which said: "There is no question of gagging MEPs."

The "gagging" code was in breach of European Parliament rules and he was appealing to the president to make a ruling on the matter, Mr Coates said. The national executive could not impose its code - accepted by MPs at Westminster - on them.

"We happen to be elected members of Parliament and they are not. That's their disadvantage in this affair," he said.

Wayne David, the Labour group leader in Europe, said he "totally disassociated" himself from Mr Coates' comments. He could be suspended from the whip.

Some of the MEPs object to the code itself, while others want to be free to state their objections to PR. Mr Coates is in favour of PR but believes the "list" system being proposed is unfair.

It will mean that instead of being selected to represent a constituency, a prospective MEP will have to win a place on a regional list drawn up by his or her national party.

— Fran Abrams

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## Labour MEPs face disciplinary action over PR protest

Four Labour MEPs have been told they face disciplinary action unless they accept a new code of conduct by 3pm today. The four, Ken Coates from Nottingham, Hugh Kerr from Essex and Hertfordshire, Michael Hindle from Lancashire South and Michael Hindle from Lancashire South, were warned by the party's national executive committee yesterday. Simon Murphy, Labour's MEP for the party's national executive committee, said the committee had been publicly critical of the four MEPs' conduct. He said the committee had been publicly critical of the four MEPs' conduct. He said the committee had been publicly critical of the four MEPs' conduct.

## Brussels spells out disadvantages of UK getting cold feet

Staying out of monetary union until after the next election will deny the UK a place in Europe's 'economic government', EU officials warn. Katherine Butler in Brussels finds that even before he declares his intentions, Tony Blair's claims to leadership in Europe are being dismissed as 'hot air'.



French connection: Late joiners will miss out on the powerful 'Euro Council', a French idea designed to counter-balance the European Central Bank

"How can you lead from the sidelines?" is the question being asked as EU officials decode the muddled messages from London apparently ruling out until 2002 a definite commitment or timetable for joining monetary union.

Hides had been raised that Britain was positioning itself for early second-wave membership. It was since last month's meeting of finance ministers, the first after the summer recess, was there was a shift. The conviction that Labour was preparing to take Britain in soon after the launch of EMU in 1999 prompted informal moves to cause a hiccup for Tony Blair, on prior membership of the ERM, for example.

England representative would have gone a long way towards compensating Britain for delayed entry in terms of influence. But without a clear timetable, why would other member-states, all of which will be jockeying for places, make the concession, officials now ask.

But the most worrying threat will come from establishment of a 'Euro Council', which will in effect form Europe's economic government. Agreed in outline this month by the French and Germans, it will consist of finance ministers from the 'in' countries who will meet 'to co-ordinate' outside the normal monthly EU finance ministerial meetings.

Blair can deliver. While Labour has transformed the atmosphere in relations with the rest of the EU, Britain under Mr Blair will not, it seems, take the lead on the three biggest questions on the EU political agenda: common defence, common borders and common currency. The Cabinet's dilemma on single currency is not incommensurate to Britain's EU partners. There is complete understanding that swaying public opinion will take time and a referendum must be strategically timed. But there is doubt about the economic tests the Government insists must be met before it will recommend membership. Britain was last week deemed technically ready for the Maastricht convergence criteria. The British and continental business cycles are out of step but this is not regarded as an insurmountable obstacle. Officials say a hoped-for effect of bringing economic and monetary policies into convergence will in any case be to flatten the boom-and-bust cycle. Ireland, for example, is also experiencing high growth when recovery is only beginning in Europe. Yet, despite the risks, Dublin has made the commitment which, for now, Britain seems unable to make.

## Chancellor Kohl puts his faith in the City's clout

It is clear that Britons seek in the pound versus euro debate, look no further than Europe's elder statesman. "Britain will join monetary union, because the City wants it," declared Chancellor Helmut Kohl a few weeks ago.

Tory government. Relations between the two countries are now on a better footing, German officials insist. On the personal level, there is a rapport between Chancellor Kohl and the Prime Minister, based on mutual respect, which simply did not exist in the past.

More importantly, Germany feels a great deal more secure about its ability to launch the euro on time than it did a few months ago. Very few analysts are willing to bet against the launch now, and the biggest question seems to be whether it will start with 10 or 11 members.

Whatever London's position on membership, the guerrilla warfare waged by the Major government against the euro has been abandoned. On Monday Chancellor Kohl received assurances from the Prime Minister that Britain will not use its EU presidency to hinder the project in the crucial months next year when monetary union is launched.

The German establishment is fully aware of the political difficulties facing the British government. "The main problem is the fact that they have to transfer important decision-making powers, not even to Brussels but to Frankfurt, and for British culture and tradition that is hard," said Karl Otto Pöhl, former president of the Bundesbank.

But for all the sympathy, the British "yes-no" will have repercussions. "Since Britain will not enter EMU in the near future, Blair can bury his hope of turning his country into a leading nation in Europe," thundered the left-leaning *Tageszeitung*.

On Monday Chancellor Kohl received assurances from the Prime Minister that Britain will not use its EU presidency to hinder the project in the crucial months next year when monetary union is launched.

## WHAT THE EUROPEAN PAPERS SAY

According to the press, European capitals have been calling for Britain to clarify its position on the single currency.

For *La Tribune* in France the "crisis" represents Mr Blair's "first major faux pas". Paris wants to avoid being sucked into a mark zone dominated by Germany and wants Britain on board, said *Le Monde*.

"Tony Blair's honeymoon ends" said *Le Soir*, the Brussels daily. Britain's torment on monetary union has Shakespearean resonances, said the paper, adding that Britain must assume its responsibilities and avoid damaging the euro project.

*El Pais* in Spain warned that Mr Blair, who takes over the EU presidency in January, "risks becoming bogged down in a national debate" on EMU. *Expansion*, another Spanish daily, carried the headline "Blair's ambiguity weakens the euro project".

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## US Catholic bishops plea for end to executions

There is likely to be an upsurge in the rate of executions in the US after court judgments this week affecting Texas and Florida. Mary Dejevsky and Phil Davison report.

Roman Catholic bishops in Texas, which has the highest execution rate in the US by far, have signed a joint statement addressed to the state authorities calling for an end to the use of the death penalty.

All 21 of the state's Catholic bishops signed the statement, which accused the Texas authorities of "contributing to a climate of violence" by "usurping the sovereign dominion of God over human life". Over four pages, they argued that the death penalty should be replaced by life imprisonment without parole – the maximum punishment available in many states that do not have the death penalty.

The immediate reason for the bishops' appeal was a Supreme Court judgment, pronounced on Monday, which upheld a Texas law prohibiting juries from being told that life imprisonment without parole, or with very limited parole, was an available option where capital offences were concerned. The Supreme Court found, with the appellant, that withholding this information was likely to push juries to favour a death penalty, but also found – by the narrowest (5-4) of majorities – that the state had the right to set the rules in such cases.

The wider background to the bishops' plea, however, is the exceptional number of executions carried out in Texas this year,

and the church's increasingly vocal opposition to the death penalty – as no less a violation of the sanctity of human life in their view than abortion. So far, a total of 30 people have been executed.

This is more than the total number of executions in all other states where the death penalty applies, five times more than in Virginia, the state with the next highest number of executions, and a record for any state since the Supreme Court allowed states to restore the death penalty in 1976.

Meanwhile, Florida's Supreme Court on Monday voted 4-3 to retain the electric chair, rejecting an appeal by its next scheduled victim, Leo Jones, convicted of the 1981 murder of a police officer, that the punishment was "cruel or unusual".

Jones's appeal was based partly on what happened to Pedro Medina in March. When Medina, a 39-year-old Cuban refugee, died in Florida's electric chair – widely known as Old Sparky – flames shot out a foot from his leather face mask. He was, in the words of a Florida Supreme Court justice, "engulfed in smoke, flames, the odour of burning material and the stench of burning or roasting flesh".

But it wasn't "cruel or unusual punishment", according to the majority of the justice's colleagues. So "Old Sparky" – 74-years-old – can be used again soon on the next in line of 377 prisoners on Florida's Death Row.

"In order for a punishment to constitute cruel or unusual punishment, it must involve torture or a lingering death, or the infliction of unnecessary and wanton pain," the court's ruling said.



A protester in Bangkok yesterday calls for the resignation of the Thai Prime Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh over his handling of South-east Asia's economic crisis. Photograph: Sakchai Lalit/AP

## Russia and De Beers in gem deal

After months of haggling and uncertainty, Russia yesterday signed a trade agreement with De Beers, the South African gem cartel which controls the world diamond market. Under the deal, Russia will sell at least \$550m of rough diamonds – about half its annual output – to De Beers this year and next.

The agreement marks a truce in a acrimonious wrangle in which the South Africans complained that the Russians were exporting gems to buyers outside De Beers' marketing arm, the Central Selling Organisation. At its height, the South Africans threatened not to buy any Russian diamonds.

Their troubled relationship goes back to a secret deal struck in 1958 between the Soviet Union and South Africa, after huge deposits were discovered in Siberia in what is now the semi-autonomous republic of Sakha. While publicly railing against apartheid, Khrushchev and subsequent Soviet leaders were happy to sell their gems to De Beers, allowing the South Africans to have the run of the world market.

After the end of the Soviet Union, Russian uncut gems began to find their way to the outside world, skirting the terms of the De Beers contract. By 1995, such "pinks" were worth more than \$1bn a year. At the end of the year, the contract lapsed. The South Africans and the Russians struck a new outline deal but it broke down as the Russians, in a desperate search for hard currency, continued to sell diamonds outside the agreement. — Phil Reeves, Moscow

## Native Americans press for whaling quota

The United States, one of the toughest critics of whaling, stirred controversy yesterday with a plea to let a tribe of native Americans kill grey whales.

The request, which is expected to come before the International Whaling Commission's annual meeting in Monaco today, has dismayed environmentalists and some allies who say the Makah tribe from the Washington state stopped whaling decades ago and should not be allowed to resume.

The IWC allows subsistence

hunting by indigenous people who show that they have traditionally hunted whales and need the meat.

Alaskan natives may capture 51 rare bowhead whales, or wound as many as 66 in the process, under IWC rules.

The United States is trying to secure a quota of five grey whales a year for the Makah, who number around 2,000, to fulfil an old treaty obligation to the tribe.

"This is subsistence hunting. It's part of a way of life that

holds this tribe together," said Will Martin, acting US commissioner to the IWC.

According to IWC estimates, about 21,000 grey whales live in the eastern Pacific, and the species was recently removed from the US list of endangered animals.

But environmental groups say the US request could set a worrying precedent and trigger an avalanche of new subsistence whaling requests encouraged by the whaling nations.

— Reuters

## Japan set to sign mines ban

The Japanese Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, urged government ministries yesterday to get ready for Japan's signing of a comprehensive ban on anti-personnel landmines. Mr Hashimoto's action comes amid mounting international pressure to sign, including from the United States. Japan's military leaders have remained hesitant.

After meeting with heads of several ministries, including the Foreign Ministry, and the Defence Agency, Mr Hashimoto said "We will move to sign the treaty soon," a Foreign Ministry official said. Before the decision is finally endorsed by the cabinet, however, Japan will have to find alternatives to the use of landmines and study ways to comply with the agreement under the US-Japan bilateral security alliance, the ministry official said.

## Angolans leave Brazzaville

Angolan troops who helped rebels take control of Congo started pulling heavy arms out of Brazzaville where United Nations and French missions arrived to assess humanitarian needs, witnesses said yesterday. France flew in a 38-strong team of medical personnel and firemen to help cope with the crisis in Brazzaville.

Witnesses at Brazzaville's Maya Maya airport said that two Angolan military transport planes flew out after offloading fuel and loading rocket launchers and heavy trucks. It was unclear whether the planes were returning home or flying to other areas in Congo.

## 'Toilet alert' is flushed with success

A drive by the authorities in Singapore to keep public lavatories clean and dry is meeting with overwhelming success, the Ministry of Environment said in a "toilet alert" yesterday.

The statement said that in the first week "5,000 Singaporeans have called the Clean Public Toilets hotline to identify Singapore's model toilets and to vote for their top five favourite toilets".

The ministry has launched a poster competition featuring three model lavatories and inviting the public to identify their locations, as well as to nominate their favourite public conveniences in five categories of locations. Prizes include a return trip to Hong Kong.

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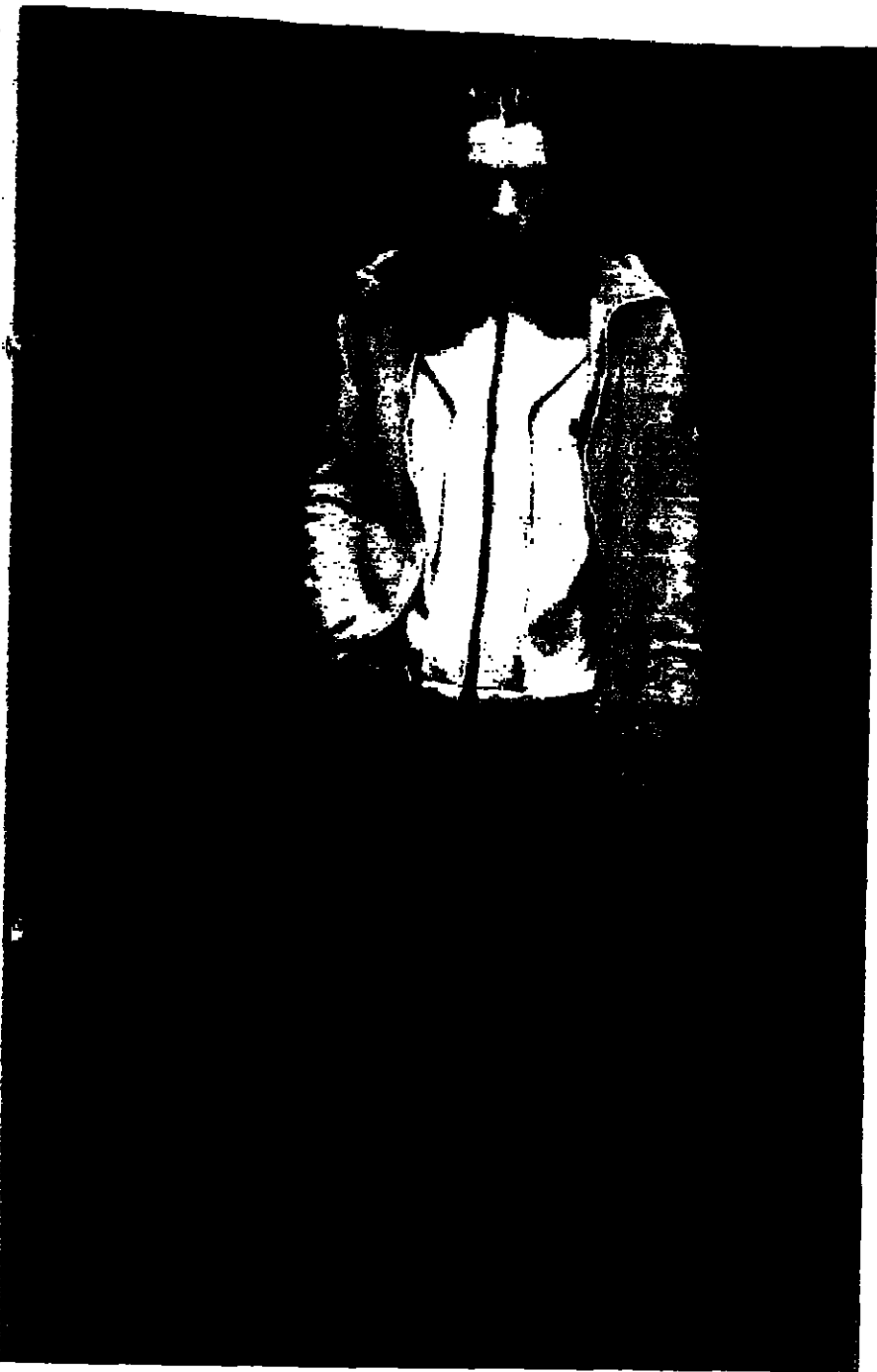
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## Sustainable

There are very few people in the fashion world on a mission to create and make a difference. Most are content to leave that to politicians and activists. Nigel Gargrow, however, is changing his own drum and it's made of some unique fabric reports.



## Anti-pollution masks are just an extra



Photographs: Sheridan Morley  
Styling: Sophia Neophitou  
Model: Steve Wilson at Models One

Far left: Orange hooded top, £90; yellow Kevlar jacket-liner, £160; black nylon Kevlar-lined trousers, £200; all by Vexed Generation, 3 Berwick Street, London W1 (call 0171-287 6224). Black trainers, £64.99, by Stride, from Office, 57 Neal Street, London WC2 (call 0171-407 1843)

Left: Red neoprene jacket with goggles, £195; red poloneck jumper, £150; combat trousers, £135; all by Superga, from Jones, Floral Street, London WC2, Wade Smith, 2 Matthew Street, Liverpool, Strand, 20-22 Queen Victoria Street, Leeds, Strand, 15-17 Princes Square, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Scots of Chester, 86-92 Forgate Street, Chester (call 0171-494 4955)

Below: Pale blue double-ended zip top, £90, denim trousers, £70, both by Vexed Generation, as before; navy neoprene top, £325, and hooded pollution-vented jacket, £345, both by Superga, as before; trainers, £79.99, by Adidas, from Cobra Sports, 38 Long Acre, London WC2 (call 0181-847 4616)



Left: Grey microfibre waterproof trousers, £95, by Vexed Generation, as before; blue zip knit jumper, £195; black neoprene zippered pollution top, £345; royal blue padded gloves, £110; all by Superga, as before. Trainers, as before

They have seen the future and it is scary. The madly fashionable Italian company Superga is producing a line of clothing not just to keep men fabulous, but to keep them safe: practically bullet-proof with in-built air pollution masks, acid rain protection and infrared goggles. Tamsin Blanchard is much reassured.

You are the sort of person who gets outraged by cyclists wearing anti-pollution masks, you'll hate the new range of clothing by the Italian footwear company Superga. Jackets come with in-built masks, high collars to protect the face against acid rain or any other scary environmental phenomenon, and infrared goggles to help the wearer to see in the dark.

In Italy, Superga pumps are the equivalent of Dunlop in the UK: they are worn by everyone, from schoolgirls to housewives. When, in 1995, the 86-year-old company employed Franco Bosisio, the man responsible for getting Swatch watches on wrists from Tokyo to Tunbridge Wells, Superga became a label worth watching. When Bosisio had the bright idea of employing the menswear genius Massimo Osti, the designer who created Stone Island (and now has his own stable of labels), Superga became an absolute must-have on the shopping lists of hip menswear stores up and down the country. If you own a Swatch, chances are that, before the year is out, you'll own a Superga too. Stores have already opened around Italy and are planned for Madrid, Paris and Hamburg, with one planned for London next year. Philippe Starck is working on a footwear collection for next summer, too.

Superga may be laying the foundations for major expansion into the next millennium, but if Massimo Osti's pessimistic view

of the future of our planet is anything to go by, we may not be around that long. Osti spends much of his time researching new high-tech fabrics, and has designed jackets for his own labels made out of Kevlar, a bullet-proof American military fabric, as well as Thermojoint, which is designed to withstand exposure to radiation. A single layer of Kevlar won't keep out stray bullets, but it will keep your knees graze-free if you happen to be a keen skater. His high-tech fabric line, ST95, is on sale at Jones in Covent Garden, alongside the Superga range.

Carlos Williams, Jones's buyer, bought Superga for its fashion value rather than for function. "The anti-pollution masks are just an added extra, a bonus," he admits. "I haven't actually seen anyone walking around with the mask on." He doesn't subscribe to the idea of impending doom-day, and hasn't bought Osti's nuclear fallout coat.

Over at the London-based protective clothing label Vexed Generation, designers Adam and Joe are not pessimistic about the future of the environment, either. "It's the old awareness factor," says Joe. "Power through awareness." The two set up in business in the summer of 1994, a particularly bad summer for air pollution, with record admissions into hospitals for people with breathing difficulties. The aim of Vexed Generation is to educate people and make them aware of environmental and social issues, from petrol fumes to the ever-increasing intrusion of closed-circuit TV, through design. Waterproof fleece jackets have high collars with in-built air filters developed by 3M. Trousers are made of ballistic nylon, as used for binmen's trousers and gloves. Others have padded knees and are made of Kevlar, which is "strong as hell", Joe says. It also comes as brushed fleece, as used for policemen's undergarments.

Like Massimo Osti, Vexed Generation spend much of their time developing their own fabrics. Not only do they visit fabric

trade fairs, they also study *New Scientist*, following up on developments in industrial fabrics. This winter they have developed one of the first waterproof denims by coating it in Teflon making it water- and stain-repellent. They use wool usually reserved for police uniforms "because you never see a policeman's uniform looking out of shape".

For those who are not so interested in making a statement against the current state of environmental affairs, the clothes at Vexed Generation are just the thing for people who spend time out of doors, including cyclists and bikers. And with built-in pollution protection, you won't even need to wear a mask as you battle through the fumes and traffic.

## Sustainable fashion – the renaissance of hemp

There are very few people in the fashion world on a mission to educate and make a difference. Most are content to leave that to politicians and activists. Nigel Glasgow, however, is banging his own drum, and it's made of hemp. Melanie Riekey reports.

The streetwear designer Glasgow has found a unique way of raising awareness in what he describes as "looking behind the veneer" of fashion and making consciously produced clothes that don't look hippyified, but urban.

His company, Urban Poison, was one of the first to use industrial hemp after the Home

Office granted a licence for growing the weed in 1993. He spent the two years following its reintroduction learning about its properties, and discovering new ways to manufacture it as a fabric. Glasgow's aim was to develop a fashion forward range beyond "brown rice" sensibilities. There are no "stoned again" T-shirts, hemp-leaf prints or clothes made from what looks like a sackcloth material. Urban Poison clothes are modern/functional.

There are only six styles of jacket and trouser in eight basic, bright colours and two types of fabric – hemp denim and hemp drill. Standard five-pocket jeans, frayed-edge jeans, combat pants, jackets and T-shirts make up the current collection. He is also working on new combinations for women's clothes by mixing silk and pos-



sibly Lycra with hemp. "We've had a very good reaction; the public are beginning to understand that hemp is a positive product," Glasgow wants to make lip balm, shampoo and apothecary products, too.

One good thing about Urban Poison clothes is that wearing them can quite feasibly lead to a conversation of the "not many people know that"

variety. As a fabric, hemp was more popular than cotton until the Thirties, when large manufacturers muscled in on the market, and in 1971 hemp production was banned altogether in the UK under the Misuse of Drugs Act. It doesn't need agrochemicals to grow it, and it can sprout up to 4 metres in 12 weeks. In fact, the first Levi's jeans were made from

the hemp fibre because its tensile strength is three to four times that of cotton. It is also warmer, softer, and more water-absorbent.

Glasgow believes that hemp is a product for the future, and he wants everyone to know it. In his advertising and on his labels he puts 23-12-2012, the date when, he believes, the world's consciousness will change. Apparently it is when the earth will complete the move into the Age of Aquarius; by then, he hopes we will all be wearing hemp.

Urban Poison is available from World, 27 Lichfield Street, Covent Garden, London WC1; The Dispensary, 25 Pembroke Road, W11, 0171 221 4107; for further inquiries call 0171 209 3175. Jeans start from £70. T-shirts from £25, jackets from £90.

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## 'Essex girl writes play' shock horror

The Royal Court's latest offering – Rebecca Prichard's *Fairgame* – has teenage actors enacting scenes of teenage rape. Cue the usual moral outrage. Who cares that when the author took a first draft into schools, she found the subject matter all too frighteningly familiar to today's young girls?

At the ripe old age of 25, gentle, softly spoken Rebecca Prichard is steeling herself. Young she may be, but she's far from naïve and fully aware that her Royal Court play, *Fairgame*, is likely to cause a stir in the more reactionary quarters of the press. When Sarah Kane's *Blasted* opened there two years ago, some critics foamed at the mouth at her vivid depiction of a dysfunctional relationship between a seedy tabloid journalist and a young woman and the atrocities of war. It turned into headline news and tabloid reporters besieged the theatre baying for blood.

So much for the peculiarly fashionable notion that theatre is dead. Ill-informed commentators seem to like nothing better than to offset their lack of knowledge of contemporary theatre by citing a golden age when plays really were central to cultural debate. Whatever happened, they cry, to the days when everyone was up in arms about Edward Bond's *Saved*? (That 1965 play featured a young Denis Waterman stoning a baby to death in a pram.) Or the time when Mary Whitehouse tried to take the director Michael Bogdanov to court over the buggery scene in Howard Bren-



A bad case of double standards: the brouhaha that greeted Sarah Kane's *Blasted* (left) dwarfed the usually tame response that greets standard Hollywood movie violence. *Fairgame* (above), by Rebecca Prichard (far left), uses teenage actors to portray teenage rape. Will she too fall prey to the same kind of sexist criticism for her play's depiction of violent rape?

Photographs: Tristram Kerton and Sarah Ainslee

BY DAVID BENEDICT

ton's *The Romans in Britain*? (That was at the National in 1980.) Such complainants certainly take no responsibility for the fact that serious arts criticism is an ever-decreasing priority in most newspapers that go for the easy option, ie cravenly following the hype generated by the PR industry.

In the face of all this, the *Blasted* brouhaha was a graphic illustration of the enduring power of live performance. It certainly dwarfed the relatively tame response to the everyday violence of Hollywood movies. Perhaps there is another underlying cause to the scandal. More recently, Out of Joint presented Mark Ravenhill's equally demanding *Shopping and Fucking*, which is currently on a world tour and returns to the West End in January. Despite its social criticism and its depiction of sex and violence, barely an eyebrow was raised outside of the reviews. Was *Blasted* singled out for opprobrium because it was written by a woman? When men write about men behaving badly, they are praised for their self-lacerating insight.

When women do it, they are accused of ineptitude or ball-breaking, the nearest term to describe the non-existent word for the opposite of misogyny.

So where does this leave Rebecca Prichard, born and brought up in Essex, Britain's least favourite county? Essex girls aren't supposed to have brains, let alone be able to write plays. Their prevailing young white-trash image says more about the male control of culture than realistic demographics, but Prichard is well on her way to providing an effective and highly theatrical counterblast.

In 1993, armed with a drama degree from Exeter University, she was leading drama workshops with young women and

single mothers when she saw an advertisement for young writers. The following year, the sharp-edged *Essex Girls*, her first play, became one of the hits of the Royal Court Young Writers' Festival. The first act, in which Diane, Kelly and Hayley yak away in the school toilets, is tightly structured, acutely observed (she has a brilliant ear for stripped-down dialogue) and hilariously funny. The second-act portrait of a single mother in a rundown council flat is cooler and bleaker. No one was more surprised than she was when it went down well in New York at a reading presented by New Dramatists. "I thought everything about it was very local; the sense of place is very strong. I thought that would be a barrier,

but the audience was laughing away."

Humour is very important to her writing. "If you open them up with humour, you can do anything," she laughs, wickedly, her eyes widening gleefully at the prospect. Understandably, there are far fewer laughs in *Fairgame*, but Prichard's sense of humour frees her from the dangerous portentousness that could stifle so serious a subject matter as teenage rape. Unusually, it is based on another play, *Games in the Backyard*, by the Israeli writer Edna Mazza.

"What I really liked about Edna's play was that you could so easily recognise the behaviour. Using theatre to face up to anxieties or dark sides of our own lives is very

important. I liked the way she's prepared to do that. I also thought the fact that, in her play, the girl who is raped is Palestinian, while the boys are Jewish, makes it into a power relationship. That connection between rape and power, with the idea of the rape of culture – objectifying somebody not only as a woman but also culturally – was very interesting. The rape isn't purely sexual, the aggression is far wider than that."

Over successive drafts, Prichard has relocated the play to London and removed Mazza's intercut scenes that deal with the trial of the rapists. She has replaced that element with the equally vexed question of family, building in a central relationship between a stepbrother and sister. "Outside

of the Israeli context, the concept of law doesn't mean the same thing, but one of the things that happens all the time with moral panics is the question of why are these people committing the rape in the first place? I wanted to explore the context and causes, economic, social...

The downside to the confidence of her writing is the demands it makes of her casts. The Royal Court production is using actors aged between 14 and 16, which will further inflame those who seek to take issue with the play, but makes perfect dramatic sense. Having worked extensively with her director Roxana Silbert in the past, she's confident, but wary. Relatively inexperienced actors have vitality and spontaneity but the difficulty for any production is whether teenagers can construct fully developed performances that deliver the crucial character history and subtext. "The specific dynamics on stage are about power and manipulation and control. Because the characters have no control over their own lives, they are constantly controlling one another."

That's certainly true, but Prichard doesn't make it easy for them. There is barely a speech in the play longer than one line. Nor does she ever editorialise. There is no character who lets the audience off the hook by explaining the moral position, something a weaker writer would do.

She welcomes the opportunity to explore a highly emotive topic in a way that would be more distanced on film. "You can confront an audience in a more directly challenging way. The events are so near, it has more of an impact. As witnesses to it, you feel much more responsible."

Taking the first draft into schools was frightening: teachers stopped them using certain girls to play the central character because it was felt the part was too close to their experience. "We found that a lot of them knew someone who had been raped. Many of them spoke about it with a lot of familiarity. I think the cases we read about in the press are the tip of the iceberg."

Although, on the face of it, *Fairgame* has little in common with either *Blasted* or Phyllis Nagy's *The Strip*, Prichard found inspiration in both plays. "Neither of these women felt tied to writing about the female experience: they felt they could just write about the world. They were making connections between very intimate, personal perspectives and a wider political reality. They're challenging an audience to deconstruct the values of their society as represented on stage, rather than merely asking them to empathise."

In the calmest possible way, she confides that she detests spoon-feeding. "You have to respect the intelligence of your audience. Telling us what we should think is really patronising and unnecessary. It feeds into the whole moral panic argument. Ironically, it makes children of us." Which is positively the last thing you want in a play about the tensions of adolescence.

*Fairgame* is at the Royal Court at the Duke of York's, London WC2 (0171-565 5000) on 24-25, 29-31 Oct and 1 Nov

## Big man with a big appetite for the big time

Over the years, the reviewers have extracted more than their fair pound of flesh from Desmond Barrit's beefy performances. Time then, perhaps, says Dominic Cavendish, for them to eat a little humble pie

Desmond Barrit is rarely surprised by the reviews he receives. He cannot recall a single one, he says, that has not referred in some way to his girth. To misquote the belittled Hermione in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, it is "nothing but fat, and bulky", as though the crit-

ics were vying with *Roger's The Sausages* to create phrases that do full, jumbo-sized justice to his palpable stage presence. This 53-year-old Welshman can run them off in a mellifluous, alliterative stream: "I've been compared to an enormous ice-cream, a barrage balloon in a breeze, a big humble-bee, a ball full of blubber. In a magazine once, they even wrote 'Name: Desmond Barrit. Occupation: 22-stone actor.'"

If ever a performer was in danger of being judged solely on his appearance, this is he. What new epithets will they find tonight, one wonders, when Barrit opens in a Greenwich revival of Arthur Miller's *A View from the Bridge*, playing the

hardman lead, Eddie Carbone?

It's not that he's sensitive about his size ("I'm fat and that's all there is to it, you can't get bothered about it, life's too short"). But it would be cruelly inappropriate if reviewers focused on the authenticity of his paunch as a way of measuring what is, in fact, a pretty big career jump. Over the past 10 years, Barrit has become one of our leading comic actors, so his physical stature has been seen in a flattering light – as the trademark of a larger than life talent. He first came to public attention stealing the show as a one-eyed "lump" in *The Scarlet Pimpernel* directed at Chichester by Nicholas Hytner, who took him under his wing. Since then he has scooped an Olivier award for his Tweedle-dum-and-Tweedle-dee portrayal of the Antipholus twins in Ian Judge's *The Comedy of Errors* at the RSC. He was showered with plaudits when he took his mighty Bottom to the States in Adrian Noble's deconstructed *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, again for the RSC.

And he won popular affection for his definitively insufferable Toad in the National's *The Wind in the Willows*. Pretty good going for someone who quit accountancy at the age of 35 to go into acting after a wager with a friend at a party. But there is still something left to prove: not that, inside Desmond Barrit, there is a serious actor struggling to get out, but that Barrit is, generally, a great all-round performer.

The portrait of a middle-aged Brooklyn longshoreman



Not so much a case of a comic playing Hamlet, more a case of a fine actor expanding his range: Desmond Barrit limbers up for *A View from the Bridge*. Photo: Tristram Kerton

whose life collapses in a pool of over-possessiveness, envy and betrayal. *A View from the Bridge* is hardly a laugh a minute, though Eddie is not beyond the odd wisecrack at the beginning. Barrit, who has been known to play his audiences with more cheek than Frankie Howerd, remains unimpressed by the intensity. His mid-range straight roles earlier in his career, most notably Gloucester in *King Lear*, taught him the truth in the adage that comedy is harder to master than tragedy. "In comedy, there is an optimum way of delivering a line. Once you've reached that optimum level, you have to repeat it every night in such a way as to make it sound completely fresh. With tragedy, you can feel a response there and then, it's far less technical."

Nevertheless, he dislikes the division between the two

modes, insisting that they are "right next to each other – life is neither all tragic or all comic and whether you are playing tragedy or comedy, the thing is to play it for real, then audiences will either cry or laugh."

It was Barrit's startling two-tone combination in his RSC Malvolio ("Michelin-sized sourpuss", "was Toad", read the reviews) that drew him to the attention of upwardly-mobile director Rachel Kavanaugh.

"I realised as soon as I saw the moving closing scenes of *Twelfth Night*, where he ended up on his own, that he is incredibly versatile," she explains, noting a similar unease about Eddie's increasingly savage behaviour during *A View from the Bridge*. "He is at his most laughable when he is at his most terrifying."

Though he plays down the Greenwich stint as a change of

diet ("It's nice to have a bit of meat from time to time"), Barrit knows that he must not be upstaged by his bulk if he is to be in line for the roles he really craves: he hankers after lago and Lear, just as much as he does Falstaff and panto dames. "I'd also really like to see a Hamlet who is truly 'fat and seamy of breath' and a chubby Romeo and Juliet," he adds mischievously.

In his 18-year career, Barrit has never been out of work ("If you've got a gimmick and you can cash in on it, why not?"). But it's the kind of work that counts, and he wants to be more Robbie Coltrane than Paul (Hi-de-Hi) Shane. Maybe this will be the week he'll open a newspaper and get his first fat-free notice.

Greenwich Theatre, London SE10 (0181-858 7735). To 29 November

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كلنا من الاصل



# Its closing will leave me with an empty feeling inside

On Saturday the British Museum Reading Room will close for ever. Lamentation has mostly been confined to the life of the mind. But for Ben Rogers, biographer and gastronome, it has been a matter to all the senses. His books on philosophers could at a pinch have been written in the new British Library ... but where would he have eaten?

People who spend most of their lives writing have to take their pleasures where they can find them - the British Library offered more than its share. In the 10 years I worked there I watched intellectual fashions change. Neighbours who were once reading books with titles like *Towards a Feasible Socialism* were suddenly poring over *Justice in the Market*. Post-modernism gave way to sexuality, class conflict to nationalism as the hot topic of the day. It was nice, too, to be able to catch up with one's friends: it was good to know that Michael still had not finished his book on pornography; that eight years on, Caroline was still stuck on Montaigne, that at least I'd out-paced Eddie. But if the place had its joys and consolations, there were also worries. How could Ben Pimlott, who wandered in late and left early, have another biography out already? And why was it that the real Stakhanovites of the academy, writers such as Roy Porter, who measure their output in tons, never even entered the library. Was it all a colossal waste of time?

Perhaps. But then again, perhaps not. Volumes have been written in praise of Sidney Smirke's great dome and that praise is deserved: it provided a wonderful place to work. Warm and light, its loftiness induced concentration. Hours just drifted by in suspended time, the days seemed too short. Sidney had reason to smirk. The place somehow got a reputation as a pick-up joint but it seemed to me the opposite was the case. Readers there worked too intently to notice anyone around them - or at least that is how I consoled myself.

There were certainly some lovely places for lunch. This indeed was part of the splendour of the British Library and has as much to do with the general sadness at its passing as the scholarly traditions of the place. The network of streets in front of the British Museum, with their antiquarian bookshops, silversmiths and small restaurants are among the least changed in London. Indeed, their charm has increased with the

quality of the lunches they offer. Pizza Express has had to learn to compete with the Museum Street Cafe and Wagamama. When I got my book contract I even ventured into Covent Garden for lunch at The Ivy. There was a worrying time when the nice Lebanese cafe that did such good tabbouleh closed, but then the Coffee Gallery opened up in its place - now Piero and Henrietta Amodio serve some of the best

Tuscan cooking in this country. When I ate there last they were serving potato and artichoke frittata, a Sicilian salad of cauliflower, red onion and pecorino, and roasted winter vegetables with pesto. Spending your day between a place like this and the library itself you could feel history passing you by - life slipping through your hands. It was painful in a way. Yet the serendipitous reading room encounters and

the lunches they generated were so pleasant and civilised that nothing else seemed to matter. These were the sort of seductive deterrents to real work that Cyril Connolly described in *Enemies of Promise*.

Still, I am not one of those opposed to the move to the new site on Euston Road. King's Cross will benefit from the scholars' dollars and it is obvious that the British Museum needs more space. More than

that, my hunch is that the new building is going to prove very well-designed in a practical, everyday way. It is not as glamorous as the super-modern Bibliothèque de France, but like the Round Reading Room in relation to the Bibliothèque Nationale, it will almost certainly be a better place to work. It is only when I look at the restaurant guides that I become worried. St Pancras is a desert. Where are we going to eat?

The final chapter: the books are gone from the shelves but the readers read on. Visions of King's Cross leave them unmoved

Photograph: Andrew Burman



## Choose your weapons: paintballs or live ammunition

William Hague and his Tory colleagues are off in Eastbourne, bonding. A winning idea, or what? Debbie Barham has devised a simple test to help you find out whether bonding could harmonise YOUR team dynamic.

- When several senior managers disappear to a posh hotel for two days, how is this referred to?  
a) A "bonding" session.  
b) A "bondage" session. And it's only rarely referred to.  
c) Lunch.
- How many people work in your organisation?  
a) 1,000+  
b) 100+  
c) 10+  
d) Only those below the rank of "manager".
- If a colleague is irritating you by smoking at work, what do you do?  
a) Open a window.  
b) Open a window and push

the colleague out.  
c) Open a window and invite the colleague to join you in abseiling down the side of the building, whilst embracing you in a touchy-feely kind of way.  
d) Say nothing, then file a lawsuit for potential lung-cancer risk.

- If you had a corporate "team song", it would be:  
a) Working on the Chain Gang.  
b) Wake Me Up Before You Go Go.  
c) Deutschland Uber Alles.  
d) I'm A Little Teapot.  
e) We Hate Tottenham (We Do).

5. What does the word "loyalty" suggest to you?  
a) Something to be encouraged among colleagues.  
b) Being faithful to one's spouse (except during bonding sessions in posh hotels).  
c) Plastic card entitling one to half an air mile and/or a free grape, after spending entire month's salary at Tesco.  
d) Japanese tourist's incentive to pay 8 quid for a visit to Buckingham Palace.

- Why might your employer suggest a re-birthing and regressive therapy programme - helping every staff member to get in touch with his or her "inner child"?  
a) So that he can get away with paying you all YTS money.  
b) So that he can force you to take unpaid maternity leave.  
c) So that the workforce behave in a less immature fashion and stop squabbling all the time.  
d) Your employer is William Hague, and he's fed up with always being the youngest.

- Which of the following words are your co-workers most likely to use to describe you? (Tick all that apply)  
a) Motivated  
b) Dynamic  
c) Caring  
d) Professional  
e) Dogsboddy  
f) Bitch  
g) The Accused  
h) Still at lunch

8. Have you ever joined work-mates in a battle for survival - enduring the hostile elements,

surrounded by creepy-crawlies and knowing that only the fittest stand a chance of coming through unscathed?

- Of course I have. I'm a member of the bloody Tory party.
- Yes, every weekend. And it only costs me £250, including VAT, board, and all the woodlice I can eat.
- Yes, every weekend. I earn a fortune running outward-bound excursions for gullible company personnel.
- No, I avoid the staff canteen and go to Pret à Manger.

- How do you address your immediate superior?  
a) Mary/Sieve, etc  
b) Mate/Sweetheart, etc  
c) Miss/Mister, etc  
d) Miss Whiplash/Mister Love Pump, etc  
e) In terms which are, unfortunately, not printable in a family paper.

- At Christmas your company chairman gives you -  
a) A card.  
b) Your cards.  
c) A personal gift, personally addressed to you, personally.

by his Personal Assistant (via Personnel).  
d) One in the stationery cupboard at the Office Party.

11. Which of these would you prefer to go on to boost your working performance?

- Iron John weekend (spent bonding with colleagues)
- Ironie John weekend (spent being sarky about colleagues)
- Iron-Bru John weekend (spent getting pissed with colleagues)
- Iron Lady weekend (spent with Tory party)
- Ironiser John weekend (spent in isolation tank, with air purifier and aromatherapy candle.)

12. Finally - you are on a paintball excursion accompanied by your immediate superior; your company chairman; your assistant; the YTS trainee; and William Hague. You have two bullets. Whom do you shoot?  
a) The assistant and the trainee. They are the two most likely to threaten your promotion prospects.

b) Two pigeons, and invite your co-workers to a morale-boosting company barbecue.  
c) You order your assistant to shoot the chairman, and then you shoot him, blame it on the trainee and take over the entire company. William Hague upholds you as a shining example of innovative, focused thinking.  
d) Hague. Twice. Just to make certain.

Now tot up your score as follows:  
1. a) 3 b) 2 c) 1  
2. a) 1 b) 2 c) 3 d) 0  
3. a) 1 b) 5 (but possibly unwise for you to go on bonding weekend at same venue as Tory party) c) 1 d) 0  
4. a) 0 b) 0 c) 1 d) 0 (unless you work for Josiah Wedgwood Corporation)  
5. a) 3 b) 1 c) 0 d) 0  
6. a) 0 b) 0 c) 1 d) 1  
7. Score +1 for each of a-d. Minus 1 for each of e-f.  
8. a) 0 b) 3 c) 2 d) 1  
9. a) 3 (assuming that your immediate superior's name is

in fact Mary or Steve.) b) 2 c) 1 d) 1 e) 0  
10. a) 1 b) 0 c) 3 d) 0  
11. a) 3 b) 0 c) 2 d) 2 e) 1  
12. a) 0 b) 3 c) 1 c) 3

How did you rate?  
50+ points: Interesting. The maximum total available was 50, so either you are an inveterate liar and a cheat or have no head for simple arithmetic. A lucrative career beckons - have you considered applying to Mr Hague to be Shadow Chancellor?

30+ points: A real Hague Scorer! You're motivated, dynamic and a real asset to the corporate structure. Boy, do your colleagues hate you. Word of advice: if you're going on a paintball excursion, check that nobody's "accidentally" replaced that Dulux Dusky Cornfield Emulsion with a few rounds of live ammo.

20-29 points: Average. Why not try hugging your colleagues once in a while or

learning to cry in public? Although do bear in mind that Hug Abuse is now a major problem in the City (tell-tale signs including constant sniffing, reddening of the eyes and frequently disappearing to the bathroom).

10-19 points: A bonding weekend could be just what you need to ease some of that inter-employee stress. Alternatively, try some adopting some feng shui techniques and move a few items of furniture to relieve Yin/Yang tension (unless you work for Pickfords Ltd, in which case technique probably ineffective). Many people these days swear by Feng Shui. Just look at the benefits Tony Blair enjoyed simply by shifting one old cabinet out of Number 10.

5-9 points: Your workplace is clearly a hotbed of spite, vindictiveness, cheating and backstabbing. Go bond - before it's too late.

Less than 5 points: You are a member of the Tory party.

## BELOVED AND BONK

### Diary of a divorce



I had an entire sloppy movie screenplay worked out from my encounter with Mr Blue Eyes, from the champagne cooling in the river to the impromptu weekend in Barcelona. Every conversation, every last item of underwear scripted from the moment our lips met. (Yeah... you guessed, it didn't work out. A single frock extraction in a small tent was all I got. The part I neglected to tell you was that he was born in the 1970s. Once he'd seen me sober, and in daylight, all bets were off.)

But every cloud has a silver lining if you look hard enough. The scrap of tinfoil at the heart of my own personal hurricane is that, Blue Eyes or no Blue Eyes I can wear size 10 Levis with a button fly. The button fly, as any inclined-to-plumpness-gals will understand, is particularly significant... you can't wear button fly jeans if your whole life depends on reducing your frontage-bulk by even so much as a millimetre.

I have always aspired to the state of Tight Jean-dom. That state in which your

navel has a kind of stretched look and all ways peeps out like a third eye over the top of your waist band and you can't bury your fingers to the knuckles in the flesh at the tops of your thighs. Since spending long afternoons locked in Beloved's teenage bedroom 20 years ago, I have felt that Tight Jeandom, TJ for short, could be the key to his heart. The Pirelli girls that plastered his walls haunted both our imaginations. Particularly that one leaning forward, long-haired, rolling a joint over the most perfect flat tummy in the universe, the ultimate example of TJ.

So in hope of my body achieving TJ standard I have always had items of clothing stored up against that great day: 1) a bikini lurking at the bottom of my undies drawer where the light of day seldom shows (next to the bright-blue French knickers that feel like sandpaper and the basque whose underwiring is a threat to life). It gets worn (with wellies and a sun-hat... yeah, so now you see why he left, huh?) for one afternoon's gardening

every summer when I feel that part of my anatomy could be approaching TJ standard. 2) A very, very little black dress, which similarly used to get an annual outing (with the risk-of-severe-stabbing-ha) when I felt Beloved was keen (and pissed) enough not to notice the parts of me definitely not up to TJ.

But Beloved went and took a stone or so of me with him. So now not just one, but several parts of my body have come up to TJ Standard.

Of course, only when viewed through half-closed eyes, because the real truth is that my body is a record of my long history with Beloved. From the sad little saggy bit under my ribs where our children's feet pushed during weeks 35 to 40 (that's a pregnancy term for those of you uninitiated in the delights of Morning Sickness and Colic), to my stupid little hands that he used to laugh at. In my worst moments I do direct comparisons between Bonk's body and my own. Not even a TJ tummy can compete with boobs that have nev-

er been Belisha beacons full of milk, legs that are six inches longer and a torso that has probably never been anything but Pirelli material.

I am trying to refurbish my body so that, looking at myself isn't liable to plunge me into jabbering snot-dome like looking at almost anything else around here does: I mean, I even painted the doors and windows with his favourite colour in mind. I can't afford radical plastic surgery (or a wholesale redecoration) so I'm avoiding my face in the mirror and just tarting up the bits of me that stick out before my eyes. Starting with hands: gold wedding engagement and (vv expensive) eternity ring off (eternity by the way is exactly 13 months long in case any of you didn't know), big, cheap, hippy silver rings on. Every finger, (except of course one... keep options clearly open at all times).

This new hand look gives me a ridiculous amount of pleasure. I can transfer my whole being into my hands away from all the other bits of me that I don't like

and that remind me of Beloved. I can do stuff that I've seen other grrlles do and wondered at... you know things like the "touching-the-side-of-your-neck-with-the-opposite-hand" (if you don't recognise, this gesture, try it now and you will remember it immediately from a hundred TV soaps and cosmetic ads), or the "gentle-cupping-the-chin-and-cheek-with-only-slightly-curved-fingers". A whole repertoire of the feminine that I've never felt had the right to before has gloriously opened up to me because of my newly glamorous hands (which are flamboyant and yet somehow rather vulnerable). At a stroke, one bit of me has achieved full Tight Jeandom.

Next, the feet: painted toenails (grass stains to be removed first), high heels (must practise walking up and down the landing) and slingsbacks (serious work to be done on removing my ideological prejudices - it took major self counselling to start shaving my legs). Give me time and I could move into handbags.



## Animal experiments pose difficult questions for everyone



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Cosmetics researchers need an eye for an eye. Any mammalian eye will do – it's to test whether make-up irritates the human cornea. There are people who would, suitably rewarded, offer their own eyes. If that happened there would be an outcry: the companies concerned would suffer. But rabbits suffering, regulated by official decree, provokes no sustained opposition – consumers have so far refused to use their market power to stop it. Pictures of their pain are different. Many objected to the image on our front page yesterday: not the kind of thing to look at over the cornflakes.

But live animal experimentation should not be a case of out of sight, out of mind, for two reasons. One is that some people – though not as many as the animal rightsists like to claim – object passionately to all animal experiments. For their sake extensive public debate and, if necessary, mobilisation of the majority view, are vital. The other is a more general reason, to do with living in a society dominated by

expertise. Too often in the modern world we ignore what goes on behind the laboratory door. The public's agent, says the Medical Research Council, pays for it. The public applauds when scientists announce some great breakthrough. But the public does not engage with the researchers, scrutinising and seeking to understand the necessity of their work. We do not often enough ask whether deploying the utilitarian argument – that painful means are justified by less (human) pain in the end – always suffices.

Most people are utilitarians. They take the pragmatic line that accepts experiments with living creatures – which, of course, includes genetic manipulation, as well as animal experiments for the sake of mascara. This justification is based, more or less, on a hierarchical picture of the living world in which *Homo sapiens* sits at the top of the tree and observes only his own constraints on what he does to the lower orders: eats them, cossets them,

conserves them, exterminates them. Man is acquisitive – for knowledge as much as for cowhide or frogs' legs, and the animal kingdom is a victim of that (in this context, at least; there are other ways in which animals benefit from our hunger for knowledge). Genetic research, the newest and most exciting frontier, proceeds at a furious pace. A sheep is cloned for the sake of better animal husbandry; a headless tadpole is created to help supply materials for human surgery; other research serves to conserve and propagate animal species. There is no easy arithmetic of cost and benefit here. We may long for general rules of procedure, but all we have are cases. Short of rolling back the Enlightenment and all its works, the quest to know has to continue. The challenge is to regulate its speed and manage its consequences.

Obviously, there is a difference between manipulating genes, and operations that cause animals pain. Leave the arguments about "animal rights" aside; we do not even

need to use anthropomorphic words such as "suffering". It is surely enough to say that inflicting pain anywhere demands special consideration, for our own human sake as much as for the animals'. The progressive diminution of cruelty to animals is rightly seen as a mark of civilisation's progress. Today's practical and legal question is about the circumstances in which inflicting deliberate pain is allowed. Those circumstances change, so the Government should ensure that open consideration is given to animal welfare in general and animal experimentation specifically.

There is rarely a straightforward or linear relationship between laboratory work on animals and medical advances of human benefit. But where such a relationship can be argued, most people are willing to countenance the pain. The key word is "argued". The scientific community and the public need to be in constant and energetic conversation – a two-way flow of facts and valuations. We have to listen to

the researchers – people such as Colin Blakemore, who are articulate as well as original – and not just to the moral indignation of the animal rights fundamentalists. But the scientific community also has to listen to the public and attend to its changing value judgements on research and its products. Inflicting undue suffering on any creature reduces our humanity.

The Government ought to be embarrassed by our story this week – not just by its content, but by the impression Jack Straw gave yesterday that the Home Secretary is not altogether aware of what his own department is up to. He has a chance to come good, however, by demonstrating that he knows perceptions change and that policy needs to change with them. What looks like an acceptable number of experiments on animals one year may be excessive the next. That demands not just discussion in expert committees, but an open politics of animal pain. We all have to be mature enough to withstand it.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor  
and include a daytime telephone number.  
Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk  
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address.  
Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

## LETTERS

### Long road to EMU

Sir: The Government has signalled that no EMU referendum will take place this side of the next general election, and in practice it will be 2004 at the earliest before the UK can join EMU. Even based on 2004 as a possible entry date, any "convergence" ploys (on sterling, gilts or interest rates) are subject to considerable uncertainties.

The hurdles to be cleared before UK can join EMU in 2004 are as follows. EMU has to work, against the background of the massive economic disruption which could be caused by the computer millennium problem. Labour has to win the next election. Labour's five economic criteria for entry, in particular the necessity for the UK and other EMU economies to be in synchronisation, have to be met in time for a referendum in (say) 2002. A "yes" vote to EMU has to be achieved in a referendum; current opinion polls suggest a 3:1 majority against entry.

Even after a referendum had been won, UK businesses (which will have had little motivation to prepare for EMU in the meantime) would need 18 months to two years to get ready for EMU, indicating an earliest start date of 2004.

Two conclusions can be drawn. First, in terms of chronology, there is not a huge difference between Tony Blair's and William Hague's respective stances of 2004 plus and 2007 plus. Second, there is little reason for sterling to be trading at much below DM3. This is unhelpful to manufacturers, and also to the Government, whose ambitious programme must rely heavily on a thriving economy.

M C FITZPATRICK  
Head of Economics  
Channing Lellacott  
London WC1

Sir: Jonathan Youens (Letters, 16 October) alleges that Chrysler threatened to withdraw from the UK market if the UK did not join the single currency. It was not Chrysler who made this threat. It was another US manufacturer which issued the statement.

PETER RAWLINSON  
Press and PR Director  
Chrysler  
Dover Kent

### Persecuted Gypsies

Sir: As an immigration solicitor I was appalled by your headline "Gypsies invade Dover, hoping for a handout" (20 October).

The implication that Gypsies cannot be genuine refugees is unfounded. There are many recorded incidents of persecution of Gypsy populations throughout Eastern Europe. Lynch law and mob violence is often encouraged or tacitly supported by the local authorities. The growth of nationalist sentiment in many countries since the demise of the Communist regimes has resulted in the virtual ethnic cleansing of the Gypsy populations.

International law attempts to offer protection to those in this position. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees handbook on determining refugee status states that "where serious discriminatory or other offen-

sive acts are committed by the local populace they can be considered as persecution if they are knowingly tolerated by the authorities or if the authorities refuse, or prove unable, to offer effective protection".

People do not decide to leave a country their community has lived in for centuries lightly. KATE BELL  
Hammersmith and Fulham  
Community Law Centre  
London W6

### Back to town

Sir: In his otherwise admirable letter (18 October) on house-building on green-belt land, Trevor Roberts claims that an adequate amount of rural land must be allocated for housing in order to avoid dramatic rises in prices. But one way of encouraging development within urban areas is to allow the cost of rural land to rise so that market forces turn people's

attention to the towns.

Although there is a need for new social housing in rural areas to prevent young adults being obliged to leave the place in which they were brought up, there is no reason why newcomers should not pay market prices. If this encourages them to think twice about moving into what remains of the countryside of South-east England it will, in turn, encourage house-builders to look again at "brownfield" sites: thus helping the Government to realise its policy of re-invigorating our cities. HARLEY SHERLOCK  
London EC1

### Holocaust mourning

Sir: The Council of Christians and Jews strongly affirms the significance of Holocaust Day for the Jewish community and wholly rejects the view to the contrary expressed by Rabbi Jonathan Romain (report, 20 October).

The Holocaust is a central element of the modern Jewish experience, differing in magnitude and nature from even the greatest catastrophes that have occurred in its past. Its memory cannot be merged with the atrocities of hundreds of years ago. Rabbi Romain's proposal has already caused great hurt and consternation in the Jewish community and dismay among those Christians with a special concern for developing an understanding between our two faith communities. Today many Christians wish to stand in solidarity with the Jewish people on this day and the practice of holding special services of remembrance is growing.

Holocaust Day is especially significant for survivors and their families. It provides a focused time of mourning and remembrance for those who still grieve for loved ones. It is, moreover, of great educational importance

for young people of all faiths, ensuring that the significance of the Shoah will not be forgotten in future generations and that the lessons learnt from this catastrophe of fifty years ago be applied to our understanding of contemporary attempts at genocide. PAUL D MENDEL  
Director  
The Council of Christians and Jews  
London WC1

### Pesticide confusion

Sir: I was not totally surprised by the somewhat confused outcome of the court case of a farmhand made ill by exposure to organophosphate pesticides ("Chemical victim wins partial victory", 18 October). New evidence emerging almost daily relating to a variety of such chemicals makes it hard for even toxicologists and geneticists to keep abreast of the facts.

It would appear to be high time for a major public conference to take place, to consider the handling of cases of serious personal injury, in particular those involving highly complex and politically sensitive chemical compounds.

The barrister Charles Pugh, writing in the *Journal of Personal Injury Litigation*, has proposed one valuable change in the law, to reverse the burden of proof: "Once the claimant has established that the disease or condition is consistent with exposure to a given chemical, and that the claimant was in a plausible exposure zone ... then there should be a rebuttable presumption of cause and effect in favour of the claimant."

It might also be useful to try such cases in the presence of a jury, which is not now the case. ELIZABETH SIGMUND  
OP Information Network  
Callington,  
Cornwall

### Plague of hoardings

Sir: Your report (18 October) that up to a third of the population now go out of their way to avoid advertising.

The Old Kent Road in south London is cluttered with hoardings, perhaps ten or more visible at any one point. The ads dominate the landscape and their content is often alien to the lifestyle "choices" available to residents of one of the poorest communities in the UK.

The lack of ads on our motorways stands in stark contrast to the blitz in town. Motorists who lower their gaze to avoid the ads risk the loss of long-range and peripheral vision so necessary to road safety.

I suggest readers too take advantage of the liberal planning regime operated by many London councils. Apply for a hoarding licence outside a major ad agency director's home. A simple message should adorn it: "Not today, thank you". ALISTAIR MITCHELL  
London SE15

### Freed paedophiles

Sir: Your leading article (17 October) on paedophiles raises the question of how a criminal justice system can command respect when it allows a convicted killer whom police and social services regard as "a significant threat to the safety of young men and boys" to be released when he has at least five years of his sentence yet to serve.

Parole should be granted in appropriate cases, but I cannot see how a convicted criminal can object to being required to serve the full sentence imposed by a court if it is deemed necessary for the protection of the public. Dr JOHN WILKERSON  
Barnsley, South Yorkshire

### Poor lawyers

Sir: Donald Macintyre in his article on conditional fees for lawyers (17 October), misses one point. It is impractical to expect a student from a normal background to go through university, bar school and pupillage, and then face the prospect of working for nothing. A conditional fees scheme is likely to help to maintain the Bar as preserve of those who can afford this expense. KEITH VINCENT  
London E8

## When Wilde came out of jail, he left the coloured cloak behind



MILES KINGSTON

In 1975 Quentin Crisp wrote a book called *How To Have a Lifestyle* which, if anyone had taken notice of it, would have left us with a world full of style instead of what we have at the moment, a world full of people following fashion, or merely trailing in its wake. Fashion is not style, as Mr Crisp never tired of saying: it is the opposite of style. People who have style are people who know who they are; fashion is for people who have no idea who they are.

Quentin Crisp's little handbook is illustrated by some drawings by Mr Crisp himself, which show that his contact with the art world was not limited to being a life model: he also taught himself how to draw. He did not, however, seem to have

been a very good teacher and the drawings are laboured and ineffective. It is a good thing for Mr Crisp that he could talk and write, for he would never have achieved fame for his drawings alone, and he has wisely dropped this activity from his repertoire in later years.

Indeed, he might have regretted it if he turned out to be a great draughtsman, for he repeatedly stresses in his book that if you are the kind of artist that makes things (paintings, sculptures, pots, statues) there is always a great danger that you may be eclipsed by the objects you scatter through the world. Henry Moore was, from the point of view of style, a failure, says Quentin Crisp, in the sense that everyone knows what

a Henry Moore sculpture looks like, but if Henry Moore himself strolled into a gallery, nobody would have the faintest idea who he was.

Moore is dead now, of course, but one might rephrase it in terms of Damien Hirst. Nowadays if you show people a shark swimming in a sea of formaldehyde, or a skinned rabbit nailed upside down to a piece of wood, they will immediately say: "Ah, a Damien Hirst!" instead of saying as previous generations would, "Excuse my curiosity, but why have you put that shark in that formaldehyde?" If, however, we sat next to Damien Hirst on the bus, we would not suspect who he was, even if he smelled of formaldehyde.

Some artists we would recognise immediately because they have turned their image or their presence into their own style. David Hockney is instantly recognisable with his blend of Californian sun and Yorkshire accent, and his pale exploding hairdo, looking for all the world like John Birt with a thousand volts going through him. Augustus John, in his lifetime, lived the life and the image of the Bohemian artist, and it may be that the image of his life is remembered more strongly than his paintings.

But the artist who is remembered more strongly for his lifestyle in this century than any other must be Salvador Dali. As his biographer Ian Gib-

son was explaining on Monday, on *Starts The Week*, almost everything Dali did was designed to help manufacture his eye-catching act as an artist. Even his adoption of Catholicism was a ploy to help him get back in to Franco's Spain as a resident of his home country.

(This drew a wonderfully predictable squawk from Paul Johnson, Britain's most easily aroused Catholic, who happened to be in Melvyn Bragg's studio as well. Not only did Johnson spring to the defence of the Vatican but he attempted to squash Gibbon by revealing that he, Johnson, had met Dali as long ago as the 1950s and that he, Dali, had told him that he had invented Surrealism by going personally to

New York in 1920 and doing something or other outrageous. Gibbon was not impressed. He pointed out to Paul Johnson that in 1920 Dali was a 16-year-old schoolboy, that Surrealism had not yet been invented and that Dali did not get to New York till 1934. Paul Johnson, who has not yet decided whether he wants his lifestyle to be seen as that of a sober-serious historian or a scatter-brained, outrageously conservative polemicist, seemed to find this not worth answering.)

Actually, Ian Gibbon summed it all up by saying that he thought the whole mask constructed by Salvador Dan was not initially a PR job, though it worked very well as that. Primarily, in his opinion,

Dali's façade was an attempt to cover up the perpetually adolescent self, the real Dali, of which he was ashamed. (Gibson's book is called *The Shameful Life of Salvador Dali*.) And this chimes in horribly and uncannily with what Crisp says about Oscar Wilde's fall and the way he came out of prison almost unrecognisable compared with the man who had gone in. Was he a broken man?

"As I see it, it was his style that was broken. It was never a part of him but rather it was a sequinned band-aid covering a suppurating sore of self-hatred."

This master class in Never Quite Getting To The Point About Oscar Wilde will be continued tomorrow.

## Private schools must come in from the cold



**DONALD  
MCINTYRE**  
CLASS AND  
EDUCATION

"A special system of schools, reserved for children whose parents have larger bank accounts than their neighbours, exists in no other country on the same scale as in England. It is at once an educational monstrosity and a grave national misfortune." So RH Tawney in his 1931 classic "Equality." No doubt the old boy now seems too left wing for the times we live in. Yet two-thirds of a century and many, many, educational upheavals later, the objective truth which so upset Tawney hasn't got any less true. Ten days ago, the *Financial Times* published its annual league table of the top 1,000 schools, graded by A-level performance. For the first time, there was no state school at all in the top 70. Private schools took two-thirds of the top 500 places.

For a long time it hasn't been fashionable to talk about this massive discrepancy in academic standards, especially on the left. Indeed it was George Walden, a Tory MP who broke the taboo when last year he exploded the myth that the private school system wasn't a legitimate issue of public policy because "only" 7 percent of parents sent their children there. Walden pointed out that that 7 percent included much of the managerial and policy making elite in the country, who thus cut themselves adrift from any personal interest in the state system: a socially excluding super-class. And he had a radical idea - which was to start luring the best of the independent schools back into the state sector by proposing they operated an open admissions policy without changing their ethos.

Under such a policy they would charge the state for taking any pupil who fulfilled their entry criteria, but whose parents couldn't afford the fees. This would cost a lot of money - a lot more than the rather flaky Assisted Places Scheme, rightly abandoned by the present government, under which taxpayers paid the fees for a limited number of parents often better off than themselves and who might have sent their children to a private school anyway. But Walden was convincing on how his solution would wipe out the class barriers that bedevil British society in way unfamiliar in meritocratic North America and Western Europe.

Anyone still doubting that those barriers are, in Tawney's words, "a grave national misfortune" should turn to the recently published *A Class Act*, by Andrew Adonis and Stephen Pollard. A devastating chapter on education points out that the problem has been getting worse. In 1969, before the destruction of the grammar schools took effect, only 38 percent of places at Oxford went to privately educated children - compared to around 50 percent now. This probably also ap-

plies to top civil servants. The generation of wartime and post-war civil servants celebrated in C P Snow's novels, who rose meritocratically to the top (and also furnished Britain with three bright grammar school prime ministers: Wilson, Heath and Thatcher), were more likely to be state educated than the present lot.

Which brings us to the main reason why the apartheid between private and public sectors has for so long been a taboo subject. There was always an uncomfortable contradiction at the heart of Labour education policy. The scrapping of most grammar schools from the mid-1960s was matched by studied inactivity on the subject of the flourishing private sector - all the more flourishing once the direct grant schools were driven out of the state system because they insisted on academic selection. Tony Crosland worried a lot about the private schools and the self-perpetuating oligarchy they fostered. But whereas he went a long way towards fulfilling his desire "to destroy every fucking grammar school in the country" he had no real solution for the private sector. And a long, embarrassed, silence, interrupted by sporadic hand wringing about the private schools, fell over the party.

This reticence may be slowly changing. Last weekend Margaret Hodge, the Blairite chairman of the Commons Education Select Committee, called for a "new relationship" between the public and private sectors; she suggested that, in return for the charitable status they enjoy, "they have a duty to give back to the community." David Blunkett has opened up a dialogue with the private sector. His White Paper talks constructively of the private sector sharing facilities with local state schools. And next month Stephen Byers, the schools minister, will announce a new body to consider how to implement some interesting ideas from Martin Stephen, the High Master of Manchester Grammar, such as allowing sixth formers to take specialist subjects or prepare for Oxbridge at independent schools, and possibly to train teachers of bright children in them too. This is more important than it looks: a Labour government would for the first time be handing over money to private schools to help with the education of non-fee paying pupils.

Will the experiment go further? Ms Hodge has been quite nice about Walden while saying that his ideas would cost too much. But it must be doubtful whether the apartheid - the Labour manifesto's own word - can be truly broken down without further voluntary re-integration. The normal answer is to say that Labour will make state schools so good that private sector parents will come flooding back. But the private sector, particularly in the South East, now has a long reach. It is unlikely to wither away even when the hoped for improvements in comprehensives come to pass.

There may yet be a case for more radical solutions in Labour's second term. Integration - or, if you like, re-nationalisation - of the old direct grant, now independent, schools, would mean lifting some of the taboos about academic selection, though almost certainly not as early as eleven. But which would do more for poorer children? Widening the opportunities in some of the best schools in Britain? Or refusing to adapt comprehensive schools while keeping the state system cut off from a socially excluding private sector? Tawney, surely, wouldn't have had any doubts.

## At last: the corporations come clean



**HAMISH  
McRAE**  
CLIMATE  
CHANGE

In case you haven't noticed, there is a grand row a-brewing which will come to the boil at the UN's climate summit to be held in Kyoto, Japan, in December. This week is seeing some little preliminary bubbles of discontent in Bonn where representatives from around the world are meeting as part of the run-up to Kyoto, but expect much more to come.

The US finds itself in the dock both for not being prepared to agree on a commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions, and for being on course to break the last commitment, made at the Rio de Janeiro summit in 1992. Earlier this week the US disclosed that its greenhouse emissions had surged by 3.4 percent in the last year, rather than declining. The US points out that most European countries and Japan have also failed to meet their commitments too, the main exceptions being Britain and Germany, both of which have cut emissions as a by-product of other policies - ourselves because we switched a lot of power generation from coal to gas, the Germans because they shut down a lot of East Germany's most polluting industries.

Meanwhile developing countries, which currently produce much lower emissions per head but where the greatest growth is occurring, understandably dislike the idea of being lectured about their environmental policies by countries that contribute far more to global warming than they do. It is, they would argue, yet another example of the prosperous West trying to pull the ladder up behind it.

I suppose that eventually the Kyoto summit will come up with some inadequate compromise to which everyone signs up and then ignores, just as they did in Rio. Does this mean that the world is condemned to a continuing rise in greenhouse emissions, with all the climatic change and the destruction to the environment that will follow? The two conventional weapons are pretty toothless, but maybe, just maybe, there is one potentially powerful one.

The two conventional weapons are the market and regulation. Even those of us who are convinced of the extraordinary power of the market would have to acknowledge

that this is one it finds hard to fix. Non-oil commodity prices are half the level in real terms that they were a century ago. We have 45 years of oil supplies and are discovering it faster than we are using it - and more still of gas and coal. So the market cannot stop us burning fossil fuels.

Could taxation be used to boost the effectiveness of the market? Not much chance: Europeans growl at the way the US tax policy leaves gasoline at one-third of European prices, but Germany pays enormous subsidies to its coal mines and Britain this year cut its tax on domestic fuel. Even when they try to be better environmentalists, politicians find their hands tied. Intellectually there is a powerful case for international energy taxation, but if politicians cannot impose high-

er domestic energy taxes, how on earth are they going to impose an international one on top?

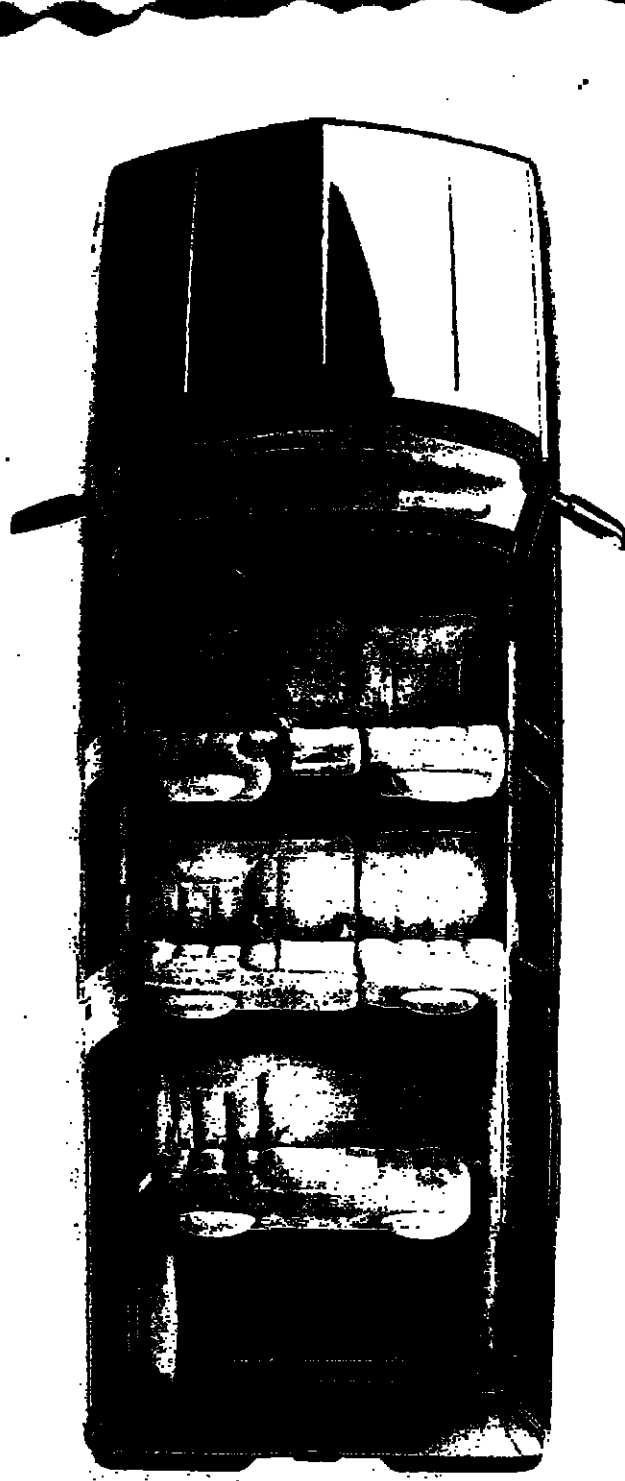
What about regulation? Regulation has the advantage, from a political point of view, that the costs are concealed in the price buyers pay for the product or service. Trouble is, people become very good at getting round them.

The classic example of this is car fuel consumption in the US. Instead of increasing the tax on gasoline, the manufacturers were compelled to produce more fuel-efficient cars. So they did, and the US manufacturers now produce lots of sub-compact cars that are designed to give very good fuel consumption. Trouble is, Americans don't like driving them, and if you have rented a sub-compact in the States recently

you will know why. Instead they drive around in pick-up trucks, or sports utility vehicles, the largest of which make Range Rovers look tiny. Needless to say neither pick-up trucks nor sports utility vehicles have to meet the strict fuel efficiency standards of the car fleet. Americans have got their big cars back - expect that they don't call them cars.

I'm not saying here that the

Travel in the USA: the Chevy Suburban proudly proclaimed by its makers to be "the largest sport utility vehicle on the face of the planet"



market and relation are hopeless. Both, supported by appropriate taxation, and both will have a part to play in trying to stop further destruction of our planet's environment. But I do suggest that we should be sceptical of their effectiveness, just as we should be sceptical of politicians' ability to persuade electorates to cut their living standards now in order to benefit people in 30 or 50 years' time.

Are there any other weapons in the locker? I think there are and these lie in the good sense and self-interest of the people in large companies. I have spent quite a lot of time over the last year or so talking to companies about the future. One of the messages that always strikes a resonance is that they cannot be too green.

Naturally members of senior management seek to establish sound environmental practices because they are worried about the legal and public relations costs of failing to do so. But much more important is the way ordinary employees say they want to work for firms that follow such policies.

This is tremendously important in recruitment and retention of staff. It is not just that you cannot get good young people if your company is being attacked by the environmentalists, though that is certainly so; your existing staff will be demoralised if they think they are working for a company that is helping to wreck the world - and the best of them will walk. Changes to the structure of the economy, particularly in the US, mean that the best staff now have the option of starting their own businesses if they don't like the way their employers run the show. Finally, being green is a powerful sales tool: it attracts customers, while failing to be green tends to repel them. This is a message well-known to US business; maybe it is a weapon that it could use against less green competitors from the new industrial regions.

We seem to be moving to a world where governments are becoming less important, and companies, particularly multinationals, are becoming more so. Some people are worried by this, seeing it as a threat to democracy. I suppose it may be. But harnessed properly, corporate greenery could be the counterbalance to governmental impotence on the environment - even if those good corporate citizens have to be weaned from their sports utility vehicles first.

## A defeat for spin, a victory for honest journalism - or is it?



**SHEENA  
McDONALD**  
THE ETHICS  
OF REPORTING

Truth is the journalist's stock-in-trade, the BBC's eloquent young foreign correspondent Fergal Keane told the assembled greybeards at this year's Huw Weldon Memorial Lecture, broadcast this week. If it is not, he vowed, if he were ever compelled to forsake adherence to truth, he would quit and sweep the streets of London. Reach for your broom, honey.

Oh sure - we like to think we get it right, and more or less apply our skills to pursuing that elusive ideal - although I do worry about Keane's insistence that his discipline is an art form, and that the tools of fiction are legitimate elements of the contemporary boot's kitbag. But if journalists are going to stake their livelihoods on peddling truth, the work-to-welfare queues will quickly lengthen.

I am not suggesting that we don't attempt enlightenment, or that we wittingly mislead (although sometimes we do). And I cheerfully salute Keane as one of the gutter-dwellers (no affection, this - life starts and ends in the terrestrial ooze) who follows his countryman's injunction and gazes at the stars. But the truth, the whole truth, probably is indeed the province

of the fiction writer, rather than the reporter or correspondent. Our trade is to try to make sense of the available information, as accurately as our medium and our sources and our proprietors allow, and to encourage a healthy and informed scepticism in our audience.

Or is it? A more challenging and interesting proposition is one debated last weekend by a another gathering of hacks - and not broadcast: that journalists are in the business of betrayal.

Too strong? Certainly, in an age when language is routinely used to conceal meaning, "betrayal" defies spin. It means what it says. Whether casual or calculated, it is an extreme act, committed at the farthest end of the human tether. It is a charge, and indictment - never a claim or boast. It is the raw material of tragedy, the distillation of fear, the root of war, the fuel of enmity, the assassin of trust, the adult nightmare, the greatest test of love.

And it is what we do. We betray our sources (though never reveal them - the last fig-leaf of journalistic integrity) by quoting them selectively and out of context. We betray our audience - readers,

listeners, viewers - by providing them with only half the picture, content to conceal enough of the whole truth to keep our contacts with the high and mighty oiled and free-running. We betray ourselves, by accepting the words of the self-confessed untruthful as a form of truth, and reporting it with-

**The truth, the whole truth, probably is the province of the fiction writer rather than the journalist ...**

out health warnings to the unsuspecting public.

And nowhere more do we do this than in the reporting of Westminster, the safe haven for the comfortably complicit, the lobby-lizard and the "salon-journalist", as Tito's press advisers called their tamed and de-clawed contacts in the media.

Or so it was - until this week. A fresh and slightly chilly breeze is blowing through the

streets and corridors of "the village", as the scribblers fondly term Westminster. In the wake of the Government's EMU debate comes the possibility of change: open, on-the-record briefings. The end of favours and favouritism; of "scoops" in the form of classified information (which may or may not be true), vouchsafed to the "loyal"; of spinners' magic circles of "trusted" insiders.

All of this, of course, will make life harder for us. And I am not sure whether we've quite woken up to the implications of living in the light. And that, in part, is because we are temporarily beguiled by that sweetest of temptations - schadenfreude. There are many around the village who long to savour the delicious prospect of Charles "bollocks" Whelehan getting his come-uppance.

But temptation exists to be resisted, and this temptation carries no promise. The Chancellor is no more likely to discard his press adviser than he is to cut off his hand. Mr Whelehan may not be the hand Mr Brown uses to eat with, or proffers to strangers, but his function is as vital as these daily activities.

He is, of course, now enmeshed in the tangled webs of

his own weaving, having fallen for the dubious flimflam of the small screen. His potency is reduced and compromised by the now general understanding of his dark arts (in this context, the fictive tools have been all too appropriate).

But he will remain on the payroll, because to dump him would be like having your pet poodle put down because your neighbour doesn't like his smell. The Chancellor may well have to learn to live without the special skills of his left-hand man, but he will not be seen to agree with those who for years have counselled him against relying on so effective an operator - any more than his neighbour will abandon The Project to make Peter a Labour love-object.

Nonetheless, the people of the dark are now in the spotlight, and we're all, politicians and journalists alike, faced with a genuine challenge.

Can we - the village dwellers - now advise the hubristic and superannuated spinners of yesterday to consider the furies?

If we can, we may yet aspire to Fergal Keane's mighty claim. Then again, we may find ourselves sweeping the streets even sooner.

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## Roberto Goizueta

Roberto Crispulo Goizueta, businessman: born Havana, Cuba 18 November 1931; staff, Coca-Cola 1960-97, vice chairman 1979-88, president 1980-81, chairman and chief executive 1981-97; married Olga Castelleiro (two sons, one daughter); died Atlanta, Georgia 18 October 1997.

There are businessmen who are natural showmen, who court publicity and proclaim their triumphs from the rooftops. Roberto Goizueta, who made Coca-Cola into one of the most admired and imitated corporations in the world, was not one of them.

If you seek his legacy in modern Atlanta, headquarters of Coca-Cola, look around: at the vast tree-planting programmes around the city; at Centennial Olympic Park laid out for the 1996 games; and at the booming local universities with their lavish endowments—all the product of the relentless surge in the value of the company's stock under Goizueta's stewardship, from a market capitalisation of \$4bn when he took over in 1981 to \$140bn today. But the deeds were done without fanfare. How different from the city's most visible philanthropist, Ted Turner of CNN, who went on the Larry King show to announce a \$1bn

donation to the UN. That was not the Goizueta way. In a sense, Roberto Goizueta was the unsung emblem of the American dream—a Cuban émigré who fled the Castro regime in 1960 to find himself in Miami with a wife and three children, a single motel room, and \$40 in his pocket. He would end up running the company which is arguably the most potent single image of America, symbol of a benign, universal and all-embracing capitalism.

The truth was more complex. He was born to privilege, the son of a Cuban sugar magnate who was educated at Yale. He joined Coca-Cola as a

chemist at the company's Havana subsidiary, before concluding that under Communism better prospects were available on the other side of the Florida Straits. He stayed with the company, moving to Atlanta where he rose swiftly through the ranks, to vice-president in charge of R & D in 1966, then head of corporate affairs, and finally chief executive in 1981.

The transformation at Coca-Cola, then under intense pressure from its eternal rival Pepsi, was immediate. Within a year he had introduced Diet Coke, a concept that would be copied by every rival from Pepsi to Schweppes, and which rose to capture an as-

toning 10 per cent of the entire US soft drinks market. Other innovations followed, mostly successful. There was of course one ignominious exception—New Coke, whose 1985 launch was the textbook example of a 20th-century marketing disaster. Research suggested a sweeter variant of Coke's famous formula would be the perfect weapon against Pepsi. But consumers rebelled, and within three months the old version, now called Classic Coke, was back.

But Goizueta made few other mistakes. Briefly he attempted to diversify, buying Columbia Pictures. The venture was a less than overwhelming

success—what, they asked contemptuously, did soft-drinks peddlers know about movie-making? Enough, it transpired, for Coke to sell the studio to Sony in 1987 for \$1.5bn, twice what they paid for it.

Though Coke advertising was always crisp and often memorable, Goizueta believed that if the "real thing" was to flourish permanently, the ultimate key was distribution—to ensure, in the words of the slogan, that his products were always and everywhere "within an arm's reach of desire". And distribution proved the battlefield where Coke would gain the upper hand in its global struggle with Pepsi.

Goizueta was a motivator who inspired both fear and reverential respect. Brokers' research departments lived in terror of getting Coke wrong and the withering letters to their bosses, signed off "Sincerely, Roberto". But the stickler for detail possessed a vision and certainty of purpose rare in any field: "Once you lose everything," he said, "what's the worst that's going to happen to you? You develop a self-assurance. That's why I tell people round here: don't get too tied to material things, someone can always take that away from you."

In Goizueta's case of course such considerations hardly applied. By the time of his death,



Goizueta: Classic Coke

brought about by lung cancer caused by heavy smoking, he was deemed by *Fortune* magazine to be the richest Hispanic in the United States, worth an estimated \$1.3bn (£810m), thanks to his holdings in Coca-Cola shares.

— Rupert Cornwell

## Debbie Linden

Debbie Linden, actress and model: born Glasgow 22 February 1941; died Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey 6 October 1997.

As an actress and topless model, Debbie Linden had a brief affair with stardom, becoming a page-three girl and playing a dollybird secretary to the dithering Mr Grace in the television situation comedy *Are You Being Served?* But, from her teenage days, she was dogged by drug and alcohol addiction which eventually hampered her career and ended her life.

Linden was born in Glasgow in 1941. Her father, Neil, a cabaret entertainer, sent her to stage school and she had ambitions to be a dancer. But her blond hair, blue eyes and curvaceous body led to Linden's making her film debut at 16 as a schoolgirl alongside Rodney Bewes, Sheila Hancock, Michael Hordern and Maureen Lipman in *The Wildcats of St Trinian's* (which remained unreleased until 1980), the director Frank Launder's disappointing attempt to revitalise the schoolgirl comedy films of

the Fifties and Sixties. She also played a schoolgirl in the film *Home Before Midnight* (1978), starring Richard Todd, and started the work as a model that led to her appearing in television commercials, becoming a page-three girl and making appearances in *The Dick Emery Show* and *The Benny Hill Show*.

Linden landed her first notable speaking role as Roy Kinnear's secretary, Doreen, in the first series of the ITV sitcom *Cowboys* (1980) before acting Mr Grace's secretary in seven episodes of the BBC's long-running *Are You Being Served?* (1981). Jeremy Lloyd and David Croft's comedy set in the Grace Brothers department store. She also acted in a *Just Good Friends* special, *Eureka* (1985), and the BBC series *The Kid* (1988), as well as playing Layla in the Comic Strip team's film *East the Rich* (1987).

Linden had other television roles in *Spencer's Patch*, *The Professionals*, *Bergerac*, *Don't Rock the Boat*, *The Ghost Sonata*, *The Old Job Man*, *Tender Loving Care* and *The Bill*, but many of her screen appearances were limited to showing off her body with walk-

on parts in programmes such as *The Kenny Everett Television Show* and the game show *3-2-1*.

While trying to make her way up the show-business ladder, Linden hid the fact that she had been addicted to drugs from her mid-teens when, as an aspiring dancer, she had been prescribed slimming pills. She progressed to soft, then harder, drugs and was soon a heroin addict, as well as becoming addicted to alcohol. She also battled against anorexia.

By the early Nineties, Linden's career was in tatters and, in 1993, when her weight had fallen to six stone, she was given a nine-month suspended prison sentence after becoming involved in a banknote fraud in an attempt to get cash to feed her addictions. In the same year, doctors warned that she would die within four weeks if she did not give up drugs and alcohol. She died out in a clinic, and although she later talked about her problems in television programmes such as *Kilroy!* and *The Time the Place*, Linden's short life ended at the age of 56 after a suspected heroin overdose.

— Anthony Hayward



Linden with Ted Rogers, host of the game show 3-2-1

## Professor A. H. Armstrong

Arthur Hilary Armstrong, Greek scholar: born Hove, East Sussex 13 August 1909; Gladstone Professor of Greek, Liverpool University 1950-72 (Emeritus); FBA 1970; Kilham Senior Fellow, Dalhousie University 1970-71, Visiting Professor of Classics and Philosophy 1972-83; married 1933 Deborah Wilson (deceased); two sons, one daughter, and two daughters (deceased); died Hereford 16 October 1997.

A. H. Armstrong was perhaps the most eminent scholar of Plotinus and of later Neoplatonism in the English-speaking world. He will best be remembered as the consummate translator of Plotinus' *Enneads* (for the Loeb Classical Library) into the elegant and accessible vernacular of the late 20th century.

Armstrong was educated first at Lancing and then at Jesus College, Cambridge, where he read for the Classical Tripos, and where he completed most of his work for his first major book, *The Architecture of the Intelligible Universe in the Philosophy of Plotinus* (1940). For Armstrong, against significant prevalent opinion, the third-century Plotinus was not a purely religious figure, of interest only to those of quirky mystical disposition, but a rigorous philosophical thinker, demonstrably in the tradition of Plato and Aristotle, who attempted to explain his experience in the philosophical categories and language of Greek philosophy. This view, essentially correct, has proved to be fruitful for all subsequent work on Plotinus, but in 1940 it was at least 20 to 30 years ahead of its time.

In 1936, Armstrong was appointed assistant lecturer in Classics at University College, Swansea, and from 1939 to 1943 he was Professor of Classics at the University of Malta in Valletta and so endured the terrible siege of Malta, an experience whose trauma never left him. After repatriation in 1943, he taught sixth-form Classics at Beaumont College, Old Windsor, until being appointed lecturer in Latin at Cardiff in 1946. His influential *An Introduction to Ancient Philosophy* appeared in 1947 and has re-

mained vigorously in print ever since. In 1950, he was appointed Gladstone Professor of Greek at Liverpool, a position he held for the next 22 years.

This time of relative stability laid the foundation for the prodigious creativity of Armstrong's later life. His gift for scholarly collaboration led to the publication, first, of *Christian Faith and Greek Philosophy* (1960, with Robert Markus) and, second, to the *Cambridge History of Later Greek and Early Medieval Philosophy* (1967), a first-rate and still unsurpassed volume of which Armstrong was editor, as well as author of the major section on Plotinus.

Although relatively unrecognised in England, Armstrong was well known in the international community and during this period he formed lasting friendships with P. Henry and H.R. Schwyzler, who produced the first critical text of Plotinus. These friendships proved invaluable as he started work on his seven-volume translation of the *Enneads*, the first volume of which appeared in 1966, the last in 1988. Finally, in 1970 he was elected to the British Academy, an honour of which he was deeply proud.

This might have been enough for another scholar, but in 1972 Armstrong took early retirement from Liverpool and embarked upon what proved to be a somewhat new existence as Visiting Professor of Classics at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, a position he held until 1983 and in which he became a focal point for scholars and students from all over North America. I myself came from England to study for one year with him and stayed instead for five. I expected the dis-

tant illumination of immense scholarship, but found instead gentleness, extensive learning and healthy scepticism. "Remember, the subject is infinite, but our time sorely finite," he commented upon an early version of my thesis, with that characteristic Armstrong sigh which marked, yet masked, the sight of any too naked human folly.

That sense of the sacred imminence of the subject seemed to touch all of his work from his profound passion for negative theology (to put it simply, "God" is nobody's exclusive preserve) to his growing conviction that there is always an infinity of unformedness in any authentic intellectual life. Religious complacency he repudiated, and he took particular delight in delivering such talks as "Some Advantages of Polytheism" to different theological departments of various Christian persuasions.

These years witnessed a prodigious output of articles, as well as the editorship of *Classical Mediterranean Spirituality* (1986), two variorum collections of his essays, *Plotinian and Christian Studies* (1979), and *Hellenic and Christian Studies* (1981), and a Festschrift in his honour, *Neoplatonism and Early Christian Thought* (1981). This creativity continued unabated after his retirement to Stropshire, until a stroke in 1989. Yet his correspondence with friends, scholars and students never faltered. In later years he loved to be taken out for a pub lunch, and as his body declined and his soul longed for greater freedom, so proportionately did the distance to his favourite pub seem to increase. The last time I saw him we drove nearly a hundred miles to and from lunch.

Although Hilary Armstrong devoted a good portion of his life to Plotinus, he was deeply in love with the spirit of Plato, and particularly with the ending of the *Phaedo*, when Socrates offers a cock to Asclepius, a gesture which Armstrong interpreted as a sacrifice in honour of Plato, who was ill at that time, and thus in honour of the perennial spirit of philosophy itself. Armstrong's life and work were in the service of that spirit.

— Kevin Corrigan



Armstrong: scepticism

## Robert Moore



Robert Moore, gambler: born Auckland, New Zealand 1953; married Joanne Chua; died Hong Kong 18 October 1997.

Hong Kong's Chinese-language newspapers called him "The God of Horses". Robert Moore, who committed suicide at the age of 44, was one of the most successful professional

gamblers in a territory where gambling is pretty much a way of life.

Arriving almost penniless in Hong Kong eight years ago, Bob Moore headed straight for the racetrack. In New Zealand, where he was born, he developed a reputation as a man who really knew about horses. When he got to Hong Kong this knowledge was seized upon by professional gamblers who knew all about odds and probabilities but little about horses themselves. One who hired him to look at videotapes of horse races says that Moore could see a horse running and know whether it would do better in another race or whether it was at its full potential.

Quickly tiring of working for others, he started working for himself. In his second year in Hong Kong Moore turned a HK\$20,000 investment in horse

racing into HK\$1m (some £80,000). Locally known as a hi-tech computer programme gambler, he was in fact an old-fashioned punter who knew a great deal about horses and developed some clever computer software for calculating the allocation of the kind of complicated bets which are a hallmark of the Hong Kong racecourse.

At the height of his career he was probably making around \$8m a year. He acquired two local businessmen as backers who paid all his expenses, which were not modest; in return they were allowed to join him in placing bets.

Their money, combined with his own, made him one of the biggest bet placers in Hong Kong. Last year he hit the headlines when the Hong Kong Jockey Club (the sole legal gambling outlet) froze his account when it reached the

HK\$21m (£1.7m) limit on telephone betting.

Most professional gamblers shun publicity like a bad smell but Moore acquired a taste for the limelight and the lavish praise showered on him by local papers. He had little hesitation in turning to the media for support in his campaign to get the Jockey Club to reverse its ruling and succeeded in obtaining permission to open several accounts.

However, this turned out to be a Pyrrhic victory because he had got carried away by his success and started making wild bets in the belief that he was invincible. The publicity which he had so avidly courted led to one of the tax authorities and the government's anti-corruption agency taking an interest in his affairs. Erratic at the best of times, he sank deeper into depression.

"If it had been the old Bob,

he could have got through," said Rod Duffity, a one-time partner and friend of Moore's. "Mooney really seemed to go to his head," he recalled. When he was flush he would go out and buy bars, wave large stacks of cash at bands to get them to play in his bars and use his money to settle scores. Having been slighted by a barman in Australia's Gold Coast he marched into the manager's office, and offered to buy the bar so that he could sack the man.

Before the end came he was verging on the brink of bankruptcy: no one was going to lend him the kind of money he had distributed so freely to a large number of people who regarded him as a soft touch. He was fond of telling friends: "You know we're not here for a long time, we're here for a good time."

— Stephen Vines

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

**BIRTHS:** On 18 October 1997, in Cambridge, to Philippa and Gerald a daughter, Joelle Rosalind, a daughter for Olivia, Harriet and Beatrice. **ROGERSON:** see FITZSIMONS.

**DEATHS:** **BALLESTERO:** On 18 October 1997, peacefully, after a long and valiant fight against anorexia nervosa, James Anthony de la Lanza (Jamie), dearly beloved only son of the late Luis Ballesteros y Tópica and of Anne Fitzsimons Shaw-Kennedy, fiancé of Ann Cacho, cousin of Alisa Modet and Paul Guadalupe, greatly mourned by his family in England and Spain, his many friends and by the intensive

**BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS:** WILL Son of Saul and Esther Kay, also brother of Alec. Retired from account department of CFC (now UTP), Epsom at West London Crematorium on Monday 27 October at 11.30am. Enquiries to John Nodds Funeral Services, telephone 0181-969 1819.

**MEMORIAL SERVICES:** 11/15 SQUADRONS: There will be a memorial service to remember those who died in the skies above Norfolk on Tuesday 11 November 1947. Please contact Mrs S. Gossett (née Gillespie), 0181-361 1408.

For BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS, telephone 071-293 2832 or fax to 071-293 2098. Charges are £A50 a line (VAT extra).

**Anniversaries:** Births: Franz Liszt, composer, 1811; Sarah Bernhardt, actress, 1844; Lord Alfred Bruce Douglas, poet, 1870. Deaths: Francis van Mieris the Younger, painter, 1763; Thomas Sheraton, cabinet-maker, 1806; Paul Cézanne, painter, 1906; Pablo Casals, cellist, 1973. On this day: President John F. Kennedy announced that the Soviet Union had installed missiles in Cuba, 1962; Don Juan Carlos of Bourbon was proclaimed King of Spain, 1975. Today is the Feast Day of St Abercius, St Donatus of Fiesole, St Mellon or Mallonus, Saints Naulio and Alodius and St Philip of Heraclea and his Companions.

## LAW REPORT: 22 OCTOBER 1997

### Onus on prosecution to disprove reasonable excuse

Where a person charged with an offence of causing a nuisance contrary to section 80(4) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 had raised some evidence of reasonable excuse, the onus was on the prosecution to show to the criminal standard of proof that the excuse was not reasonable.

Polychronis v Richards and Jerrom Ltd, Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Brooke and Mr Justice Gage) 16 October 1997.

The Divisional Court allowed an appeal by way of case stated by the prosecutor against the dismissal by justices of information laid against the respondents for offences associated with burning materials in an open yard contrary to section 80(4) and (6) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 as amended.

The justices had found that

on both the relevant dates, 4 and 30 November 1995, the respondents had burnt materials in circumstances which were likely to cause a nuisance, but that on each occasion they had had a reasonable excuse within the meaning of section 80(4) of the Act.

Barry Berlin (Sharpe Pritchard for Solicitor, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council) for the appellants; David Watson (Clarke Brookes) for the respondents.

Lord Justice Brooke, giving the judgment of the court, said that the respondents recovered and processed scrap metals.

The local authority had served an abatement notice on the respondents pursuant to section 80(1) of the 1990 Act requiring them to cease burning materials in the open. The respondents appealed against the notice, and in September 1995 the appeal was compro-

mitted by an agreement between the parties which recorded the respondents' installation of an enclosed furnace and their undertaking no longer to burn materials in the open air save in limited circumstances.

The present proceedings were instituted following complaints by local residents that the respondents were continuing to burn materials in the open, contrary to the requirements of the abatement notice. The respondents contended that they had had a reasonable excuse for doing so.

One of the questions stated by the justices for the opinion of the court was whether they had been right in law to find that it was for the respondents to prove and not for the appellant to negate the defence of reasonable excuse.

That appeared to run counter to the approach adopted in *R v Clarke* [1969] 1 WLR

1109, where in the context of the drink-driving legislation the court had held that once there was some evidence of a reasonable excuse for failure to provide a specimen, it was for the prosecution to negate such a defence.

The appellant relied on the general provision in section 101 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 which provided:

Where the defendant to an information... relies for his defence on any... excuse, whether or not it accompanies the description of the offence... in the enactment creating the offence... the burden of proving the... excuse shall be on him, and this notwithstanding that the information... contains an allegation negating the... excuse.

In *R v Hunt* [1987] AC 352 Lord Griffiths had said that each case must turn upon the construction of the particular legislation to determine whether the defence was an excuse or excuse within the

meaning of section 101 of the 1980 Act. There was nothing in the language of the legislation under consideration to suggest that the ordinary rules about the burden of proof should not apply. Once the defendant had laid the proper evidential basis for a contention that he had a reasonable excuse, it was for the prosecution to satisfy the court to the criminal standard of proof that the excuse was not a reasonable one. The answer to the question posed by the justices was, therefore, "no".

It was clear, however, from the case stated that the justices had overlooked certain evidence upon which they would inevitably have convicted the respondents even if they had correctly directed themselves on the burden of proof. In those circumstances the case was remitted to the justices with a direction to convict.

— Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

مكتبة من الامم



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FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

# Prudential is 'named and shamed' by SIB over failure to act on pensions scandal

The City's leading regulator yesterday launched an assault on Prudential, the UK's largest insurance company, over serious failings in its efforts to clear up tens of thousands of cases of pension mis-selling. The Treasury said it was "extremely disappointed" with Prudential's conduct. Andrew Verity reports.

Prudential was subjected to one of the most damning statements ever issued by the leading City regulator, the Securities and Investments Board. It was accused of failing twice to meet deadlines for urgent cases of retired and even deceased customers owed upwards of £7,000 each because Prudential salesmen on large commissions mis-sold personal pensions.

The SIB identified "serious shortcomings" in Prudential's attitude to the review of mis-sold pensions. It had failed to approach it as a major project - despite having 60,000 cases needing urgent attention. Senior management had placed too much faith in reassurances from line managers. It also failed to exercise care in its handling of the review and departed from basic principles of accountability and responsibility embodied in the Financial Services Act.

The SIB statement said: "We are deeply concerned by the cumulative effects of the Prudential's failures in its pensions review. The timely completion of the pensions review is of paramount importance."

"The SIB and the public expect a regulated firm to be able to organise its own affairs so as to complete its personal pensions review within the publicly announced framework."

Prudential failed twice this year to meet deadlines for reviewing 90 per cent of those personal pensions which needed reviewing urgently - those who have retired, transferred to other schemes or died. It promised in March to finish the reviews by the end of June; but in May it asked the SIB to extend the deadline to the end of September.

On 20 August it said it could not meet that deadline either. The reason was that 8,000 policyholders had died or retired since the personal pensions scandal blew up in October 1994. The Prudential's systems were such that it failed to notice those cases.



Under a cloud: Peter Davis, Prudential's group chief executive, in his 'Man from the Pru' role for the current advertising campaign

Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury in charge of ensuring policyholders are compensated, said: "I am extremely disappointed that the Pru has failed to meet its targets. The ordinary man and woman in the street are affected by pension firms failing to get cases sorted out - the people that should be the key priority in this sorry saga."

Prudential said yesterday that it had taken action to address the issue by appointing Price Waterhouse, the chartered accountancy firm, to help with the review. Alan Smith, until recently in charge of Pru-

dential's takeover of Scottish Amicable, will head the review.

Jim Sutcliffe, chief executive of Prudential's giant UK life assurance operation, Prudential Assurance, left the company three weeks ago. City sources believe he was expected to take the blame after Prudential learned of the forthcoming "naming and shaming" by the SIB.

In a statement, Prudential said: "We are very concerned that we have failed to meet agreed targets in our resolution of past personal pensions cases. We have now made significant changes to our management ap-

proach and our operations controls to address our earlier failings.

"We are making every effort to catch up on lost ground and to meet future targets and we believe that we are capable of achieving them."

Although some companies guilty of pensions mis-selling, such as United Assurance, have more than 10 per cent of their total staff at work on the review, Prudential has assigned less than 400 of its 16,500 UK staff to clear up the problem.

However, Peter Davis, group chief executive since July 1995 and the man with

ultimate responsibility for the review, declined to make any comment yesterday. The self-styled "Man from the Pru", whose reassuring voice is currently audible on television advertisements, is also in charge of a central plank of Government policy costing hundreds of millions of pounds - the Welfare to Work initiative.

The Treasury yesterday declined to comment on Mr Davis's position except to say he had been appointed for his experience in youth training. Mr Davis refused to comment.

Outlook, page 25

## Minister rules out aid for RJB

The Energy Minister, John Battle, yesterday ruled out any direct financial aid to help RJB Mining keep its pits open. The development came as Britain's biggest coal producer saw its share price crash by 24 per cent following a sell note from a City broker. Michael Harrison reports.

Mr Battle warned Richard Budge, RJB's chief executive, in the bluntest of terms not to expect any support from the Government in its negotiations with the electricity generators over long-term supply deals. The contracts are vital to keep collieries open. As many as six pits employing 4,000 men are facing possible closure.

But Mr Battle said: "I have no say at the table and I don't know why Mr Budge thinks I might have. Any direct subsidy would be grossly unfair to other companies who are negotiating contracts."

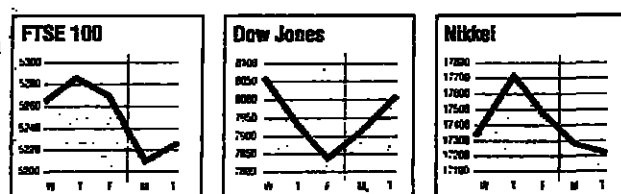
The minister added that the Government was exploring every avenue for supporting clean coal technology. But he refused to be drawn on whether this would be given direct subsidy either, pointing out that RJB's problems were more immediate since the existing contracts, accounting for nearly 90 per cent of its output, run out next March.

RJB wants the Government to impose a moratorium on the building of any further gas-fired stations while it conducts a review of energy policy. It has also canvassed the idea of being allowed to take over any coal-fired plant that the three big generators - National Power, PowerGen and Eastern, should decide to mothball.

Meanwhile, shares in RJB fell by 56.5p to close at 183.5p after Dresdner Kleinwort Benson said the stock was 60 per cent overvalued and forecast a 90 per cent fall in profits. A note from the broker cast doubt over RJB's future prospects in the face of competition from imports and the "dash for gas".

However, Charles Kernot, an analyst with Paribas, said the reaction had been overdone. RJB issued shares at 320p in 1995 to finance its £815m acquisition of the English coalfields and at one point the shares touched 650p. Mr Kernot said investors had behaved like "sheep on the way up and headless chickens on the way down".

## STOCK MARKETS



"Dow Jones index and graph in Spain"

Indices	Close	Change	Change(%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	5225.90	14.00	0.29	5330.80	3900.40	3.32
FTSE 250	4918.60	6.10	0.12	4963.80	4348.10	3.30
FTSE 350	2517.90	8.80	0.35	2555.30	1949.20	3.32
FTSE All Share	2480.88	6.48	0.26	2492.41	1925.79	3.31
FTSE SmallCap	2402.1	4.10	0.17	2406.20	2128.40	3.12
FTSE Realtime	1310.9	1.50	0.12	1346.50	1198.70	3.24
FTSE AIM	1013.7	0.40	0.04	1130.00	1003.80	0.96
Dow Jones	8007.15	82.27	1.04	8259.31	5672.73	1.67
Nikkei	12410.09	84.42	0.68	12418.25	11234.70	0.83
Hong Kong	12405.10	-507.78	-4.08	15673.27	12055.17	3.38
Shanghai	4139.50	98.75	2.44	4438.93	2859.25	1.98

## INTEREST RATES

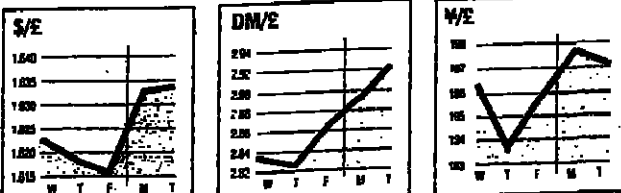


Money Market Rates	3 month	1 yr	1 yr	1 yr	1 yr	1 yr	1 yr
UK	7.25	1.30	7.50	1.10	6.50	-1.00	6.50
US	5.81	0.28	6.00	0.28	6.14	-0.38	6.42
Japan	0.53	0.04	0.58	-0.06	1.94	-0.86	2.55
Germany	3.67	0.54	4.20	0.85	5.70	-0.28	6.24

## MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (\$)	Chg (\$)	% Chg	Falls	Price (\$)	Chg (\$)	% Chg
BioComposites	585.00	40.00	7.34	RJB Mining	191.00	-44.00	-21.9
WPP Grp	288.50	15.00	5.48	Telewest	79.50	-4.00	-4.1
Siofarma	63.50	3.00	4.96	Wolsey	515.00	-20.00	-3.7
Pearl Ridge	705.50	33.00	4.68	Assoc BR Food	490	-19	-3.7

## CURRENCIES



Pound	1st Sep	Change	1st Sep	Change	1st Sep	Change
Dollar	1.6342	+0.40c	1.5829	0.6119	-0.15p	0.6278
D-Mark	2.9226	+3.41p	2.4443	D-Mark	1.7882	+1.61p
Yen	197.03	-0.79	179.51	Yen	120.57	-0.78
£ Index	102.30	+0.80	89.00	\$ Index	105.40	+0.10

## OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Chg	1st Sep	Index	Chg	1st Sep
Brent Oil (\$)	-19.29	-0.08	24.66	GDP	112.80
Gold (\$)	323.35	-0.10	381.90	RPI	159.30
Silver (\$)	4.96	0.02	4.90	Base Rates	7.00

## Industry faces further pain as pound climbs

The pound climbed further yesterday as a result of the Chancellor's clumsy weekend hint that he has ruled out membership of the single currency during this parliament. Diane Coyle and Michael Harrison report that both business and union leaders urged the Government to reconsider, as the strong pound took its toll on exporters.

Yesterday's surge in sterling coincided with evidence indicating that the confusion over EMU and the sharp rise in the value of sterling in the last few days will prove painful for British industry. The pound gained 3 pence to more than DM2.92, its highest level for nearly four months.

The Confederation of British Industry's latest survey revealed that sterling's summer

dip, reversed by the weekend's confusion, had improved optimism in industry. But the results nevertheless painted a bleak picture with export orders at their weakest since July 1991.

The CBI joined the TUC's chief in urging the Government not to rule out the possibility of early membership of Economic and Monetary Union (EMU). The director general, Adair Turner, last night said there was no good economic case for ruling out membership beyond the year 2000.

Speaking in Leeds, Mr Turner also called for a firm commitment that Britain would enter a single currency under the right conditions. "From the business point of view it is more important that there is a long-term sense of strategic direction - a statement in principle the UK wishes to be part of a successful EMU - rather than definitive statements on dates still four years away."

John Monks, secretary general of the TUC, said that it too would prefer early membership of EMU. "It will go ahead, and it will go ahead on time, and it will be very, very uncomfortable for Britain, particularly British exporters, to stay outside," he said.

But an influential research institute counselled against rushing into membership. The strong pound will make it impossible for Britain to join the single currency early, according to a report published tomorrow by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research.

Its experts reckon that Britain will be ready to join EMU in about five years at an exchange rate against the mark of DM2.50 - in other words, after the next election and at a substantially lower level of the pound.

The report concludes: "The current high level of the exchange rate has so far had little effect on the economy. We think, however, that the effects have simply been delayed, and we do not infer that it would be sensible to join EMU with an overvalued exchange rate."

According to the CBI's survey of 1,000 manufacturing firms, export orders are at their lowest since the depths of the

last recession. Andrew Buxton, chairman of Barclays Bank and also chairman of the CBI's economic affairs committee, said the renewed surge in the pound was bound to affect exports. "Since sterling has risen again I expect exporters' confidence will take a knock again."

However, the survey said overall business confidence among manufacturers had picked up, with firms expecting total order books to grow more strongly in the next four months.

Mr Buxton said there was no need for any increase in interest rates unless skill shortages and high levels of capacity utilisation began to stoke up inflation.

But City economists were less sanguine. Claran Barr, senior UK economist at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said: "With orders and output remaining robust and skill shortages starting to materialise, the Bank of England cannot fail to ignore that even the weakest sector of the economy is performing quite well."

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## Sugar goes back to Amstrad name

Alan Sugar is set to bring the Amstrad corporate name back to life by renaming Betacom, the small consumer electronics group, after the company with which the Essex entrepreneur made his fortune. Amstrad gave away its brand name to Beta-

com in a restructuring in the summer which also saw the Amstrad name disappear from stock market screens.

Mr Sugar, who owns 25 per cent of Betacom, said Amstrad was one of the strongest consumer electronics brands in Europe and that the name change would enable the company to capitalise on that strength. "Amstrad has gone back to its roots and is back to being a UK company again," the company said.

Mr Sugar turned Amstrad into a powerful force in consumer electronics in the 1980s with low-cost word-processors, computers and televisions. At one stage it was a FTSE 100 company worth more than £1bn.

Mr Sugar has brought in a new senior management team to review the product range. It is expected that Amstrad will start work on new ranges of hi-fi, televisions and videos. However, the company has said it has no plans to re-enter the cut-throat computer market.

Shareholders in Betacom will be asked to vote on the name change at the company's annual meeting on 25 November.

However shares in Betacom fell sharply from 47p to 40p yesterday following a profits warning which accompanied its full year results. The company said the telecoms market remained competitive and average prices were falling in all the major sectors. The UK consumer electronics market was very competitive with margins under continual pressure.

Betacom trebled profits of £1.7m in the year to June 1997. Sales rose from £16m to £43m. Because of rapid expansion it has moved its headquarters from Enfield, Essex to Brentwood.

Andrew Yates and Nigel Cope

## Railtrack wins dispute over bonus payments with train operators

Railtrack, the owner of the nation's track, signalling and stations, has won a decisive victory over train operators who had refused to pay bonus payments for the company's improved performance. The railway disputes resolution committee, which considered the complaint, decided in Railtrack's favour late on Monday.

Railtrack had been targeted by train operators after its accounts revealed bonus payments of £29m for last year because it had exceeded performance targets. That compared with a £43m penalty the year before.

Connex South Central, which runs services in Surrey, Sussex and south London, considered the benchmark year for the performance regime was set too low.

Railtrack received "supplementary access charges" worth £75m in 1996. Although this dwindles to zero in 2001, Railtrack's prospectus last year said directors "do not believe that improvements [in performance] will be sufficient to match the reductions in the supplements".

Randeeep Ramesh

## Rover performs marketing U-turn to jettison niche image

Rover has reversed its marketing strategy after internal consumer research showed the car maker's attempts to ape its German parent and become a "British BMW" had created widespread confusion. Chris Godsmark, Business Correspondent, reports on BMW's struggle to restore Rover's fortunes.

After months of research with consumer focus groups Rover yesterday admitted that its main UK brand was "in the doldrums" and would take years to sort out. Despite hundreds of millions of pounds pumped

into Rover since the 1994 takeover, executives led by Walter Hasselkus, the chairman, have decided that the thinking behind its current model range was misconceived.

Behind the scenes the company has performed a marketing U-turn, jettisoning the upmarket niche image for a head-on challenge to volume offerings from Ford and Vauxhall. In a surprisingly frank assessment, a spokesman yesterday described Rover as a "problem brand".

He continued: "Rover's image has been in the doldrums. Some of that misunderstanding came from the link with Honda, which compromised the brand's 'Roverness'. It's going to take us several years to re-establish Rover. We can't take that huge leap overnight."

The transformation is the work of Tom Purves, sales and marketing head and Martin Runnacles, marketing director, both brought in from BMW last year. Results from the focus groups, which the company would not reveal in detail for commercial reasons, showed consumers had not been taken in by the drive up-market, begun under Rover's previous owner, British Aerospace.

The U-turn is a damning indictment of Rover's most recent new cars, the 400 and 200, both of which were based on Hondas. The 400 is the size of a Ford Escort but sells for the price of a Mondeo, while the 200 is little bigger than a Fiesta but is priced alongside the Escort range.

Rover said new cars would be more conventional in size and price. "They will fit into the well understood hierarchy, driven in the UK by the fleet market," said the spokesman. However, replacements for the 400 and 200 were not due until beyond 2000.

Rover's share of the UK market has continued to slide this year. Excluding Land Rover, Rover Cars' market share was just 8.8 per cent between January and September, down from 9.4 per cent during the same period in 1996. The previous target in the mid-1990s was to take 10 per cent of the market.

Jay Nagley, an industry expert from consultants Quadrangle, said Rover executives had started to believe their own publicity. "Rover had hoped to become the British BMW, but they moved too far and too fast. It took BMW 30 years to get to that point."

Outlook, page 25

## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY SAMEENA AHMAD

### SmithKline could rest on its laurels

It is ironic that with merger fever now running high, one of the few industries where there is a clear case for rationalisation and global companies has seen practically no action since 1995. That industry, of course, is pharmaceuticals. There are some obvious reasons why. Healthy volume growth and rising share prices have taken the pressure off management to make big and risky strategic moves. President Bill Clinton's healthcare reforms, which threatened to cut drug prices, have fizzled out. But, with some two dozen sizeable drug companies around the world and even the biggest, Glaxo Wellcome, accounting for less than 5 per cent of the market, the case for further consolidation is overwhelming.

SmithKline Beecham, which reported third-quarter figures yesterday, is a perfect example of its industry. Right now, Jan Leschly, SmithKline's chief executive, has reason to be happy. New products like Seroquel for depression and vaccines are driving strong top-line sales growth. Drugs introduced in the last five years soared 41 per cent to £420m in the quarter - almost two-fifths of total pharmaceutical sales, up 16 per cent to £1.1bn.

Now the worst looks over. The construction sector is finally improving, spurred by the strong rise in demand for new homes. This has allowed Wolseley to rebuild the margins at its building merchants chain, its core business. And there should be plenty of growth to come.

The housing recovery has yet to feed through to the group's repair and maintenance market, which should lead to more work for small builders who buy their plumbing and heating kit from Wolseley. A great performance from the group's US merchants business also helped Wolseley to raise profits by 9 per cent to £264m for the year to July despite an £11m currency hit.

Wolseley has the financial muscle to spend around £300m on a sizeable acquisition. Whether it can find a decent target is another matter. It may have to rely on small bolt-on purchases, although this policy has worked well in the past.

Wolseley still has its share of problems. It will be pushed to maintain its outstanding rates of growth in the US and there are fears the union of two big rivals, Harcros and Jewson, may increase competition in the UK. After a good run the shares fell 20p to 515p yesterday. BZW has maintained its current-year profit forecasts at £288m, putting the group on a prospective p/e of 15. Hold.

### SmithKline Beecham: At a glance

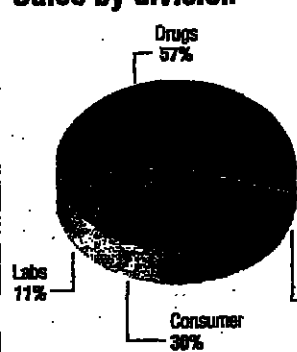
Market value: £33.5bn, share price 608p (+8p)

Trading record	1994	1995	1996	1996	1997
Turnover (£2m)	6.07	7.01	7.93	1.98	1.92
Pre-tax profits (£2m)	691	1623	1545	374	385
Earnings per share (p)	1.3	17.8	19.0	4.6	4.7
Dividends per share (p)†	8.4	7.0	9.0	2.0	2.205

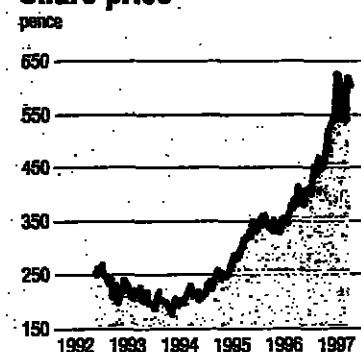
\*Includes foreign income dividend

†Revised after 2 for 1 share split

### Sales by division



### Share price



With 90 per cent of the US market in anti-smoking products and strong brands like Ribena and Aquafresh behind it, the group's consumer healthcare side is also growing fast. Even clinical laboratories, traditionally the weak spot, is recovering as demand rises. And SmithKline is building a promising heart drug portfolio and extending its involvement in genetic research. With no patent expiries until 2002, it could rest on its laurels. Investors certainly have no reason to complain. Its shares, up 8p to 608p yesterday, have beaten the FTSE All share index by 110 per cent since 1994.

While the good times last and the industry remains highly valued, SmithKline is not pressured to act. But if at some point the environment changes - a Clinton successor starts clamping down on drug prices or a pharmaceutical giant stumbles and share prices fall - the rationale for takeovers in the sector will reappear. In those circumstances SmithKline may have to rethink. It is not in the bulge bracket of mega-sized players like Glaxo and Merck and though on 30 times this year's earnings, is undervalued compared with the big US groups. Rather than face the prospect of a hostile takeover bid, it would do Mr Leschly no harm to contemplate a friendly merger.

### Budgens' shopping spree

Budgens' £5.8m deal to buy 57 branches of 7-Eleven convenience stores could work well for John von Spreckelsen's group. One of Budgens' problems has been its relative lack of scale compared to the big supermarkets. This deal will take its store numbers from 117 to more than 170 with a further half a dozen openings planned for the second half. Also, as the 7-Eleven franchise has cash of nearly £2m, the real cost is only around £4m, which Budgens can easily fund out of its year-end cash balance of £11m.

The stores will be rebranded under the Budgens name and should benefit from the greater buying power. And Budgens could introduce some of its higher-margin own-brand labels, though some 7-Elevens are too small to offer much of a choice.

The additional stores, which average 1,200 sq ft, will enable Budgens to make fuller use of its currently under-utilised distribution centre in Wellingborough.

But there are potential problems. For a start, the 7-Eleven stores don't actually make any money. They broke-even on sales of £35m last year and analysts are not forecasting profits in the coming year. And operating these kind of stores in urban locations is difficult as staff turnover and shrinkage (theft) are high.

However, Budgens already operates in metropolitan areas and has proved better at it than many. The real benefit should be in the margin. Budgens will maintain the premium pricing policy of the new stores and with buying costs reduced, the benefits should start to accrue.

Budgens shares have had a good run since the summer, rising from 40p to 54.5p, up another 4p yesterday. Assuming full-year profits of £10.4m, they trade on a forward p/e of nearly 14 times, which is not too demanding. Hold.

### Firm foundations at Wolseley

Wolseley has been one of the stars of the building sector. It has consistently produced robust results while others have fallen by the wayside or been forced to announce countless restructurings and write-downs. However, even Wolseley was not able to escape the industry's woes entirely and pre-tax profits last year dipped slightly, tarnishing a virtually unblemished earnings record.

## Harrisons & Crosfield opts for break-up

Harrisons & Crosfield, the troubled chemicals to building group, is to break itself up and return at least 50p a share to long-suffering shareholders. Andrew Yates reports on the latest conglomerate to come unstuck.

The company yesterday sold its Harcros builders merchant chain to Meyer for £318m. The group has also put a for sale sign over its underperforming food and agriculture division.

Harrisons will become a speciality chemicals business, supplying ingredients used to produce an array of paints and coatings.

The Harrisons & Crosfield name, which has been around since 1844, will also disappear. The new group will be called Elementis after it is broken up.

Bill Turcan, chief executive of Harrisons, said: "The name Elementis suits our new chemical business, conjuring up images of elements and ingredients. Prospects for our chemical division are good and we are looking at buying more speciality chemical businesses."

Harrisons plans to give back £59m to shareholders by early next

year, equivalent to 50p a share. It is considering giving more money back to investors if it cannot find suitable chemical purchases.

However Mr Turcan said he would look to spend the proceeds of the food and agriculture first and foremost on acquisitions.

Analysts believe the sale of the food and agriculture division could raise between £200m and £250m, although it may keep hold of the businesses if it cannot get a decent price. Harrisons is also due to receive £39m from the sale of its US builders merchant, Moore's.

The food and agriculture division includes BOCM Pauls, the cattle and pig feed business whose profits have been hit hard by the BSE crisis and more recently a sharp fall in pig prices. The malt business, which supplies the beer market, and Edward Petfoods are also up for sale.

One analyst said: "Harrisons has been a real dog for the past few years. This move was inevitable and makes sense. However there are still risks attached to the stock."

Harrisons' investors welcomed the news, pushing the share price up 3p to 134.5p, however Meyer's shares fell 10.5p to 400p.

Meyer, which already owns the Jewson chain, will become the biggest builders' merchant in the



Alan Peterson (left), Meyer's chief operating officer, and John Dobby, chief executive, yesterday. The group will become the biggest builders' merchant chain. Photograph: Christian Schwetz

UK with 411 outlets, 160,000 customers and around 12 per cent of a £7.8bn a year market. Alan Peterson, Meyer's chief operating officer said: "This is a good strategic move for us. We looked at what we could do by putting the

businesses together and we don't think we paid too much."

Meyer plans to rebrand about 80 per cent of the Harcros chain to the Jewson name. It will also close 20 outlets and rationalise Harcros's regional office structure

which is likely to lead to loss of more than 400 jobs. The restructuring will cost £30m. Together with purchasing benefits it will bring cost savings of £10m next year and £20m within three years. Outlook, page 25

## Ryanair sparks new price war with winter bargain fares

Ryanair, the low-cost Irish airline that floated earlier this year, yesterday sparked a fresh price war on the London-Dublin route by introducing a £19 one-way fare. Michael Harrison examines the carrier's strategy and its expansion plans.

Michael O'Leary, Ryanair's chief executive, served notice that the aggressive price-cutting tactics that have seen the airline become the market leader across the Irish sea would be used to expand further into Europe.

Ryanair plans to double the size of its fleet to 40 aircraft in the next five years and add at least another half dozen European routes. Its low-cost, no-frills service - based on the formula pioneered

by the US carrier Southwest - has seen Ryanair more than double its share of the London-Dublin market, the busiest in Europe with four million passengers a year, to 37 per cent in the last six years.

The winter schedule, announced yesterday, includes a 40 per cent increase in capacity and a range of bargain deals including a £9 one-way fare from London to Glasgow. Ryanair said the £19 one-way fare from London to Dublin was £10 cheaper than its nearest rival Easyjet, and would be available without strings such as advance purchase. It will not be available, however, over the Christmas and New Year holiday period - one of the busiest on the Irish sea routes.

The European expansion will see Ryanair consolidate its position as the biggest carrier at Stansted, where it will carry 2 million of the 6 million passengers the airport expects to handle this year.

This year the airline has increased its route network to 22 by adding flights to Paris, Brussels, Oslo and Stockholm and Mr O'Leary said he expected to launch four new European services in the next year.

The expansion, and the \$500m acquisition of 20 new Boeing or Airbus jets, will be financed almost entirely from the airline's own cash flow. It has \$100m in net cash and expects to generate at least \$60m of free cash flow a year. Last year it made pre-tax profits of £33.4m on sales of £136m.

Mr O'Leary said that a London listing was possible sometime next year. It floated on the Dublin and New York markets in May with a price tag of £300m and has since doubled in value to £600m. The largest single shareholders remain the family of GPA founder Tony Ryan, with a 33 per cent stake. Management and employees own 15 per cent of the airline.

## Redrow buys Scottish development site

Redrow Group, the Cheshire-based housebuilder, has bought a 140-acre development site in Dunfermline, Scotland with potential for up to 1,600 homes and a projected value of £130m.

The company refused to divulge the price it paid for the land, which is next to a large Hyundai car factory currently under construction.

The site is also next to a number of business parks, and is linked by the M90 and A90 to Edinburgh, which is 15 miles away.

Redrow said the new houses in Dunfermline would be a mix of starter homes for factory

workers and executive flats for commuters to Edinburgh.

In the year to June Redrow built 2,600 homes throughout Britain. The company founded its Scottish division only two years ago. It has developments in Dalgety Bay in the east and Hamilton, Robroyston and Kilbride in the west.

The Dunfermline site is part of the East Expansion Area, which is set to provide the bulk of Dunfermline's housing and business expansion up to 2020. Redrow sees it as providing a solid base for the company in the region.

Last month Steve Morgan,

Redrow's multi-millionaire executive chairman, said he was "uncomfortable" with the fast rate of growth in house prices in the London market, but said there was "absolutely no sign" of a housing boom elsewhere.

Redrow announced pre-tax profits up 36 per cent to £36m in the year to June.

House completions increased by 16 per cent to 2,629 and operating margins a full percentage point to 13.8 per cent.

Robert Jones, a former Conservative minister for planning and construction, joined the company in the summer as a non-executive director.

## Ofcom confirms number portability for mobiles

Mobile phone customers will be able to keep their number when they switch companies from January 1999, the industry watchdog, Ofcom, confirmed yesterday after the four operators accepted its proposals. It emerged yesterday that the companies signed up to the Ofcom plan by last Friday's deadline, after a warning that the issue would be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission if they disagreed. Vodafone, the biggest network, had previously attacked the plans and asked Ofcom for more time to introduce mobile number portability. Only Orange, the newest network, had urged a swifter introduction of so-called mobile number portability.

## Citicorp to cut 9,000 jobs

Citicorp, the US bank, is to cut 9,000 jobs world-wide over the next 18 months as part of its centralisation of operations. A spokesman for Citicorp refused to pinpoint the departments involved, saying that employees were being informed "on a site by site basis". However, IT and back office processing staff are likely to be most affected. Of the 9,000 staff directly hit by the restructuring programme, 1,500 will be re-deployed elsewhere in the organisation, resulting in a "net reduction of 7,500 jobs", according to Citicorp. A pre-tax restructuring charge of \$889m knocked Citicorp's third-quarter results, released yesterday. Including the charge, net income for the quarter fell 45 per cent to \$511m.

## Bond syndicate suspends Nikko

Japan's Ministry of Finance is to suspend Nikko Securities from the government bond underwriting syndicate. The move follows a criminal complaint, filed by the Japanese Securities and Exchange Surveillance Commission, against both Nikko and two of its former executives over payments to Ryuichi Koike, an alleged gangster. Tokyo prosecutors said yesterday that they had arrested the two former Nikko executives implicated in the scandal, Hiroyumi Hamahira and Akiyoshi Ikeda.

## US trade deficit worsens

The US trade deficit rose to \$10.36bn (£6.3bn) in August, its highest for seven months. The US's worsening trade gap was almost \$500m higher than the \$9.9bn billion expected by economists. The trade gap with China, now the US's leading trade deficit nation, widened to a record \$5.2bn. The Japanese trade gap narrowed by 12 per cent to \$4.53bn.

## 10,000 jobs to go at ABB

ABB, the Swiss-Swedish engineering conglomerate, yesterday announced 10,000 job losses and said it would be taking a \$850m charge in the fourth quarter to cover the cost of the restructuring. The job cuts will be in Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the US. The worst hit division will be Adranz, its heavily loss-making train joint venture with Daimler-Benz. Adranz expects to shed some 5,000 jobs, mainly in Germany, to improve its competitiveness.

## PEOPLE & BUSINESS

### JOHN WILLCOCK



British businessmen are holding their breath to see whether Mahathir Mohamed, the premier of Malaysia and scourge of western currency speculators, will turn up to address a high-powered Commonwealth Business Forum today.

The Forum is the first of its kind to bring together "leading industrialists, financiers, presidents and prime ministers ... as a global network for trade and investment".

Mr Mahathir, of course, has recently gone on record saying he would like to make currency speculation a criminal offence.

Lord Cairns, chairman of BAT Industries and former head of SG Warburg, well-known currency traders, has the tricky task of chairing the forum.

Tony Blair will address the forum on the subject of "Trade, Investment and Sustainable Development: The Commonwealth in the Global Economy."

The question is - will Mr Mahathir have them locked up?

Metal Bulletin, the British publishing company, has just bought 15 per cent of Lamp Technologies, an Internet software business based in Dallas Texas. Lamp's president is Aladdin Alghazaleh. I'm sure they'll rub along.

This year's UK Monopoly Championships requires six bankers from the City to volunteer for a couple of hours' work this Thursday afternoon at the Savoy, central London. The annual competition, held by Waddingtons, is celebrating its quarter century.

It needs the half-dozen bankers to deal with the folding stuff, starting at four o'clock. The organisers would also like to get in touch with the first ever World Monopoly Champion, a merchant banker from Dublin called John Mair, who won it in 1975 at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel in Wash-

ington DC. Mr Mair "beat off competition from Belgium, Norway and Great Britain despite tripping over a television cable and mistaking his gin and tonic for a dice shaker," say Waddingtons.

Last but not least, the company wants to track down Bill Smith and Brian Nuttall, the property developers who organised the first ever UK Monopoly Championships in 1972 in the City. The duo worked for a company called Midras Properties. For further information about the competition contact Steve Bradley on 0161-273 5923.

Peter de Savary's Penzance Drydock & Engineering Company, bought from the receivers of the Holmans shipyard last year, has recruited Rear-Admiral Mike Thomas as its new managing director with a brief to expand the business into luxury yachts.

The retired admiral, a 55-year-old Falklands veteran, is already far more commercially experienced than you might expect for an old sea dog. As a young officer in the 1960s he was in charge of hundreds of fitters at the fleet maintenance base in Devonport, and more recently he advised the Navy on the privatisation of the Royal Yards. Meanwhile, the ubiquitous Mr de Savary keeps out of his hair, says the Admiral, paying the business only "fleeing visits".

Interhand has just merged with Newell and Sorrell to become one of the UK's leading

"branding" agencies, and now it has a chief executive in the form of Rita Clifton. Ms Clifton arrives from Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising where she was vice-chairman and executive planning director. Ms Clifton, 39, will join John Sorrell, chairman of the newly created Interbrand Newell and Sorrell, and Charles Brymer, chief executive officer of the Interbrand Group. Among Ms Clifton's many achievements is a speech titled: "Marketing to Pregnant Men".

Capital Radio, still smarting from the departure of its former chief executive Richard Eyre to fill the same role at ITV Network Centre, has recruited two new directors.

Paul Davis, 42, joins as group commercial director. He was Capital Radio's managing director of media sales & marketing. Peter Mitchell, 60, joins as a non-executive director. Mr Mitchell recently retired from the post of strategic affairs director at Guinness and is an immediate past president of the World Federation of Advertisers.

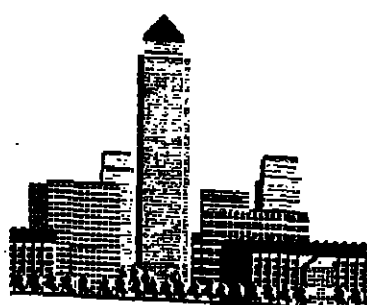
Neil McClure has brought in Ronnie Hamill as finance director for his investment vehicle Silver Shield to help develop a 25,000 seater football stadium in Swansea. Mr Hamill was for 10 years group deputy chief executive of SAS Group, a building products distributor. Mr McClure says he is weeks away from a possible deal to bring a big rugby league club to Swansea.

### COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Ashted (F)	43.1m (16.0m)	1.66m (0.61m)	2.12p (0.86p)	0.5p (nil)
Barracuda Retail (F)	50.9m (46.3m)	8.96m (7.82m)	8.2p (7.8p)	1p (0.91p)
Birmingham (F)	0.4m (0.08m)	-0.37m (-0.08m)	-2p (-0.5p)	- (-)
Charlton Athletic (F)	4.3m (3.9m)	0.25m (-1.18m)	1.57p (-4.97p)	nil (-)
David Brown (F)	91.8m (90.8m)	9.4m (8.5m)	9.9p (9p)	2.5p (2.55p)
Decca (F)	43.1m (8.52m)	2.8m (1.1m)	1.04p (0.92p)	- (-)
Oliver Redwood Sp (F)	41.1m (41.5m)	1.95m (1.52m)	6.53p (6.1p)	1.85p
On-Line (F)	504.0m (-)	115m (-)	4.9p (-)	- (-)
Peterborough (F)	260m (261m)	30.2m (29.2m)	43.0p (28.0p)	17.20p (16.0p)
Random Group (F)	28.0m (28.8m)	-0.20m (-3.25m)	-0.21p (-3.9p)	- (-)
Scottish Metropolitan Property (F)	- (-)	7.47m (9.34m)	4.2p (4.4p)	3.0p (2.75p)
Wolseley Estates (F)	4.60m (4.21m)	264m (243m)	31.07p (29.16p)	11.4p (10.35p)

(F) - First (F) - interim (†) - Sign for 10 min period





## OUTLOOK ON THE PRU'S REPRIMAND, ROVER'S PROSPECTS AND NEW CORPORATE NAMES

# Abdicating executive responsibility at the Pru

"Hi, I'm Peter Davis, the man from the Pru. As you know we've been selling life assurance here at the Pru since the beginning of the Nineteenth Century, and we are intensely jealous of our reputation for integrity and diligence. Unfortunately we seem of late to have had a spot of bother with the regulators. I'm sorry to have to inform all you policy holders out there that we've been heavily criticised by the Securities and Investments Board over our failure adequately to address the pensions mis-selling scandal. The SIB may be about to be assigned to the dustbin of history, but boy does it have some bite in its dying hours."

They can't fine us, of course. For some reason, don't ask me why, the SIB isn't allowed to fine anyone, unlike the self-regulating organisations that operate under its umbrella. I imagine that's one of the reasons why we at the Pru opted to be directly regulated by the SIB, rather than the Personal Investment Authority like everyone else. As it happens, it has backfired on us, because I think I'm right in saying we are the first to have been disciplined in quite this manner. Others have been fined and reprimanded for the mis-selling itself, or for failing to take the process of compensation seriously, but up until now nobody has been down for missing target dates for dealing with priority cases.

I'm not trying to excuse our behaviour you understand. No excuses are offered, though plenty could be. We are not even going to offer the one that everyone else uses, which is that the occupational pen-

sion funds we have to deal with have been lamentably slow in processing the reinstatement paper work. We have agreed to take this on the chin and I hope we might gain your respect for this.

Some of you may be wondering why it is that I'm not personally taking the blame for this and falling on my sword. Fair point, I've got no problem with that. The first thing that ought to be said here, however, is that I wasn't at the Pru when the pensions mis-selling took place. I only joined a couple of years ago. Ah, you may say, but you were there at the time the Pru was meant to be sorting it out and that's what you've been reprimanded for.

As often is the case in episodes like this, my fault was in putting too much trust in others. I thought we had an adequate grip on the problem, that others would take care of it, leaving me to concentrate on strategy, mega mergers, generally restructuring the group, the Government's welfare to work review, and the multitude of other things that a busy chief executive has to do. It's a marvel that any of us find time to run the business these days. Sorting out somebody else's mess is such a bore, I'm sure you will agree. We assigned three hundred people to the task for heavens sake. You'd have thought they could handle it. They certainly told me they could.

Plainly I was wrong. So I've decided personally to take charge. Someone's got to do it, and hey, that's what I'm paid £621,000 a year for. As some of you may have noticed, I've already taken action.

Jim Sutcliffe recently left as head of Prudential UK, and while this had nothing to do with pensions mis-selling, well, you get my drift.

I offer my sincerest condolences to those of you who have died awaiting compensation, but rest assured that I'm now wholly on the task. Price Waterhouse has been expensively hired to assist me and I have absolute faith in their abilities.

Yours, Sir Peter.  
PS. I hope shortly to be announcing a major strategic merger to place your company in its rightful place at the very top of the financial services industry."

## Future looks bleak for Rover

Despite the famously efficient reputation of German management, the BMW executives in charge of Rover have been forced to perform a three point turn and admit that their marketing strategy is in tatters. The latest gear change amounts to an admission that for the last five years Rover has been wasting its time trying to climb free of the cut throat, fleet-dominated mass car market and instead build a British BMW.

Rover's parent company may claim that the malaise dates back to the British Aerospace years, when Rover were little more than rebadged Hondas. But the fact is that BMW allowed the drift in strategy to continue for at least two years after it agreed to part with the staggering sum of £500m

to take control back in 1994.

Industry insiders say the new marketing team drafted into Rover from BMW this year were horrified to find a proliferation of brand managers all working independently from each other. It was left to customer focus groups to confirm what they motoring press had been saying for months, that the 200 and 400 should never have made it off the drawing board.

The new policy is to compete head-on with Ford and Vauxhall's volume cars, which sounds suspiciously like a recipe for losing money rather than market share. It hardly needs a rocket scientist to bring the Rover brand back to where it was in the early 1990s, when the previous 200 and 400 competed head-on with the likes of the Escort and Astra. The fruits of this down to earth approach will not emerge until 1999, when the new executive car is launched to replace the 600 and 800, both of which are dying.

BMW is understandably frustrated with Rover having agreed to splash out £3bn on model replacements and yet it doggedly sticks with the forecast that the business will turn a real profit in another three years.

BMW bought the business in a haze of nostalgia for the good old days of the Riley and Wolseley. Three and a half years later it understands why Sir Dick Evans wakes up every morning, looks in the mirror and thanks God that BAe no longer owns Rover.

Sooner or later someone in Munich may decide that the best course of action is to

detach Land Rover, MG and the new Mini from the old Rover Group and merger the volume business with Chrysler. The long term future of Rover as an freestanding brand looks bleaker than ever.

## Elementis, my dear Watson

How to revive the fortunes of a dull old conglomerate called Harrisons and Crosfield, better known for its roots as a plantations company than what it is today? Elementis, my dear Watson. First you hire an expensive City investment bank, in this case Schroders. Then you demerge, in Harrison's case by flogging its chain of builders merchants to Meyer, and putting the pet food and pig feed business up for sale. And then you promise to deliver some of the proceeds back to shareholders. 50p a share in this case.

But most important of all, you abandon the old name and dream up a silly new one. We've had some truly heroic attempts at this over the last six months. Burton's multiples business became Arcadia, and to the disgust of its founder, the transport group Cowie is to become Arriva. But Elementis? Ah, but you miss the point. There's logic here you see. Chemicals, the business Harrisons has chosen to concentrate on, are made up of elements. Gosh? If this is really the level of thinking that has gone into the restructuring of Harrisons and Crosfield, then we shouldn't perhaps expect too much.

## Oftel attacks BSkyB dominance in premium sport

BSkyB is coming under pressure from Oftel, the industry regulator, to provide fairer access to its premium sports and movie channels to allow other television programmers to enter the market. The news coincides with plans by Flextech, the cable and satellite programmer, to reposition itself as a rival to BSkyB. *Cathy Newman reports.*

Don Cruickshank, the director-general of telecommunications, told cable industry executives at the European Cable Communications conference yesterday that programmers should be able to provide alternatives to the BSkyB multichannels package. "It should not be the case that the only route to premium sports is via BSkyB's satellite package," he said. He added that "dominant operators" such as BSkyB should "supply premium channels on fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory terms". Cable and satellite customers can at the moment only buy premium channels such as Sky Sports and Sky Movies if they have bought a basic tier of

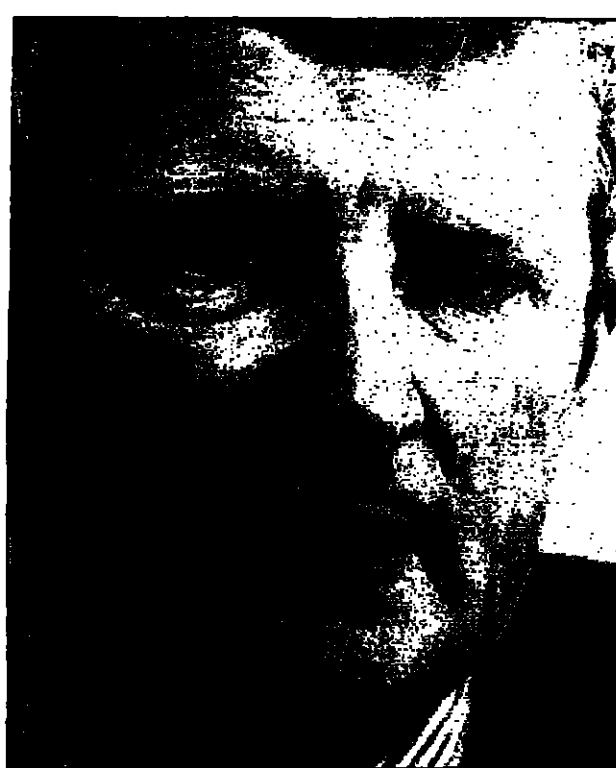
channels. Mr Cruickshank's remarks are bound to put pressure on the Independent Television Commission (ITC) to consider allowing customers to buy premium channels without buying basic programming. The ITC is conducting an investigation into the "bundling" of channels together.

Referring to that investigation, Mr Cruickshank said: "The question in my view is how to ensure that competition at the retail level is not distorted or restricted by market power at the wholesale level - that is by BSkyB's dominant position in premium programming." BSkyB declined to comment on Mr Cruickshank's remarks.

It also emerged yesterday that Flextech had held discussions with Mr Cruickshank about repositioning itself as a rival satellite broadcaster so that consumers buying a satellite dish and digital set-top-box could choose between services from BSkyB and Flextech.

Flextech would supply its customers with a basic tier of channels from its joint venture with the BBC, together with premium sports and movie channels, which it would buy from BSkyB.

However, Flextech said yesterday that during discussions with BSkyB, Rupert Murdoch's satellite broadcaster had, not surprisingly, been



Flextech has held talks with Don Cruickshank (above) about repositioning itself as a rival to BSkyB

"unenthusiastic" about the proposals.

Roger Luard, chief executive of Flextech, said: "We believe we've got sufficient channel mass to offer an attractive basic package." He added that the plans were "fully supported by the regulators".

UKTV, the joint venture between the BBC and Flextech, launches at the beginning of next month.

However, one analyst said yesterday that the proposals were being used to force BSkyB to increase the sum it pays for Flextech's channels.

Mr Cruickshank gave a warning yesterday on future

consolidation in the cable industry. He said that the competition authorities may not look so favourably on deals such as the four-way merger which formed Cable & Wireless Communications (CWC) in April now that cable operators were "broadly-based national telecommunications companies". Telewest Communications and NTL are currently holding merger talks.

Separately, Mr Cruickshank said Oftel was prepared to be "sympathetic and flexible" to cable operators' requests to change their licences to allow them to slow down or freeze the completion of their networks.

## Budget move may fuel wage inflation

The economy could face a surge in wage inflation over the next few years as employees receive compensation for the withdrawal of profit-related pay (PRP).

Barrie Clement, Labour Editor, reports on a potentially damaging consequence of the withdrawal of tax relief.

Millions of workers are expected to receive substantial wage increases over the next two years as companies abandon profit-related pay schemes.

A third of the estimated 14,500 organisations that have adopted PRP will ditch the system and intend partially or fully to consolidate the money into basic wage rates, according to a survey by the Institute of Personnel Development. Employees' representatives are bound to put pressure on the rest to follow suit.

Released on the first day of

the institute's annual conference in Harrogate today, the report warns that wage pressures are likely to mount.

Researchers found that only 16 per cent of businesses plan to continue the scheme without tax relief, which is being phased out by January 2000. A further 6 per cent intend to introduce or extend company share schemes to compensate for the loss of PRP.

Out of the 1,800 organisations surveyed by the institute, nearly a third operated Inland Revenue-approved schemes.

More than half of respondents with PRP said the scheme accounted for between 3 and 10 per cent of their wage bill last year and half distributed between 3 and 10 per cent of their profits via PRP schemes. Some 54 per cent of organisations with schemes had been operating them for two to five years.

The phased withdrawal of tax relief on PRP, which was announced in the November 1996 Budget, was prompted by the mounting cost of the scheme - £1.5bn in 1996, set to rise to £3.1bn in 2001.



## Jim's in Bradford, Alan's at head office and I've just faxed them both

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## Gyrus founders announce plans to float next month

Minimally invasive surgery makes real economic sense for cash-strapped health authorities plagued by bed shortages, claimed Mark Noble, a surgeon who yesterday announced plans to float his Gyrus medical instruments company on the stock market.

Gyrus, which will be valued at around £45m, designs, manufactures and sells hi-tech surgical devices for minimal invasive surgery.

Mr Noble said: "The market for minimal invasive surgery is booming, particularly in sports injuries where the cost of an athlete spending time in hospital can be considerable. The economics are compelling."

The company was founded in 1989 by Mr Noble, now managing director, and his brother Colin, technical director, and an electronic engineer who together will own 24 per cent of the company when it lists on the main market early next month. Neither of the brothers will sell shares when the company lists. The US healthcare giant, Johnson & Johnson, will maintain its 18 per

cent shareholding. Though Gyrus is a British company, manufacturing out of Cardiff, it currently sells only into the American market.

Though the group had yet to make a profit, reporting £2m of losses on £1.6m sales in the year to June, Mr Noble said demand for his products were soaring.

The flotation, which will raise £12m of new money, will enable the company to expand its manufacturing capacity, establish a sales force in Europe and fund research into new product areas like ear, nose and throat instruments.

European surgeons only use this technique in half of the operations which could be done this way, compared with a 80 per cent use rate in the US.

Mr Noble said that unlike laser treatments and conventional bipolar electrosurgery, the company's instruments removed tissue faster, involved less bleeding and eliminated the need to retrieve pieces of tissue from surgery site. The company is being advised by Pannure Gordon.

- Sameena Ahmad

## Government offers businesses chance to amend Competition Bill

The Government yesterday offered to introduce amendments to its Competition Bill as the legislation passes through Parliament in a bid to soften business opposition to the new anti-cartel law.

The offer was made by John Battle, the Minister for Science, Energy and Industry, who said it was important that the Government worked with industry to get the legislation right.

Mr Battle said the passage of the Bill would be "a process, not a fait accompli", in which the Government would listen to ideas for refining the legislation.

Where these changes were an improvement, the Government would introduce amendments itself. Mr Battle made it clear that the Government was determined to give the Office of Fair Trading sufficient powers to clamp down on cartels, anti-competitive agreements and abuse of market power.

The business community, led by the Confederation of British Industry, has warned the Bill would give the OFT unparalleled powers, enabling it to forcibly enter premises unan-

nounced, remove documents, question executives under threat of criminal sanction and impose fines equivalent to 10 per cent of turnover.

Addressing a conference organised by the CBI and the competition lawyers Berwin Leighton, Mr Battle stressed, however, that the legislation was about deterrence, not punishment. "We do not wish to place undue burdens on business or tinker with that which works but we are determined to introduce an effective deterrent," he added.

He conceded that the Bill, which runs to 72 clauses and 15,000 words together with a further 14 schedules running to 20,000 words, was complex. But he maintained the Department of Trade and Industry's approach had been warmly welcomed by consumers, businesses and the legal establishment. The existing Restrictive Trade Practices Act was inadequate and there were significant failings in the powers of the OFT to investigate and punish cartels. The Bill is due to get its second reading on 30 October.



## A last dance for the market-makers as Footsie trades off book

### MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN  
STOCK  
MARKET  
REPORTER  
OF THE YEAR

What could be the last dance of the market-makers in full swing yesterday as the stock market fumbled through its second day of order-driven trading.

A large slice of Footsie trades, some estimate as much as two thirds, was conducted off the order book through market-makers. And they are starting to charge heavily for the privilege of dealing with them by quoting prices outside the order book spread.

The market-makers' role will be dramatically diminished once the market becomes more accustomed to order-driven trading. "They are making hay while the sun shines," observed one trader.

Once it is fully up and running the order system will embrace the top 350 shares. Currently it takes in Footsie constituents.

Day two of the new order seemed to go smoothly, although confusion reigned over closing prices with some opting for the last order book trade, others taking the last bid, be it on the order book or not.

The main price movement, however, was outside Footsie. RJB Mining, a constituent of the supporting FTSE 250 index, crashed 56.5p to a low of 183.5p as Dresner Kleinwort Benson put the boot in. The shares touched 590.5p last year.

With "King Coal" being weighed down by overseas imports, the generators switch to gas and worries about more pit closures, the DKB sell advice appeared at a sensitive time. The securities house suggested a dramatic profits slump which could eventually lead to yearly profits of £24m against £189.2m last year. The

death of Paul Kerry, key negotiator in the crucial talks with the generators, also undermined sentiment.

Imperial Chemical Industries hardened 2.5p to 949p although more downgrades appeared ahead of tomorrow's third-quarter figures. Courtenda fell 2p to 326.5p as NatWest Securities cut its year's forecast by 6 per cent to £120m; Bass improved 6.5p to 843p with Lehman Brothers lifting its target price to 925p. Greenalls, the pubs chain, fell 5p to 368.5p after an analysts meeting and Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull sell comments. Safeway improved 6p to 402p, reflecting Panmure Gordon support.

Royal Bank of Scotland shed 5p to 697p following its investment presentation but Bank of Scotland, on determined institutional buying,

much of it outside the order-driven system, rose 21p to 540p.

National Grid brightened 4.5p to 294.5p. DKB has valued the soon to be floated Energis off-shoot at a higher than expected £1.3bn. The securities house is the global co-ordinator to the telecom share sale.

Amersham International, the healthcare group, jumped

52.5p to 2.42p. It is benefiting from expectations it will move into Footsie following the completion of its merger with Nycomed, the Norwegian pharmaceutical group. Medeva fell 8p to 229.5p on NatWest caution.

Meyer International, the timber group, was cut 10.5p to 400p on the £318m building supplies acquisition from Harrolds & Crossfield and £111.7m cash call. SBC Warburg moved the shares from hold to buy.

Jarvis, the building and rail maintenance group, added 14p to 329p; the company is gearing up for inclusion in the FTSE 250 index.

Mirror Group rose 5p to 219.5p on the Government clearance of its Midland Independent Newspapers takeover.

Reports of encouraging seismic tests of the Falkland Islands sent Westmount 18p

higher to 137.5p. Greenwich Resources, another tiddler with off-shore Falkland interests, gained 1.5p to 19p, largely on a gold royalty. Monument Oil & Gas rose 3.5p to 89.5p with HSBC advocating support.

Independent British Health Care rose 5.5p to 89p. It disclosed it was in talks which could lead to a bid. On Monday private healthcare group Bupa agreed to sell its 27 per cent stake to prevent its £17m takeover for the Goldborough nursing homes chain being referred to the MMC.

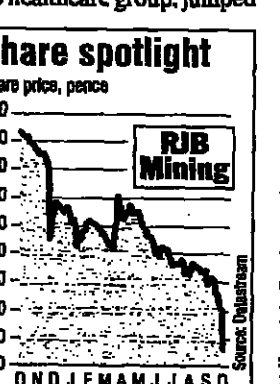
Brent Walker's second preference shares jumped, for no particular reason, 2p to 2.5p. The company is due to be liquidated following the sale of its last significant asset, the William Hill betting shop chain. Even after the sale the group is thought to have debts of more than £500m.

### TAKING STOCK

Watch Upton & Southern, the department store chain. Management is being beefed up with managing and operation directors recruited. Idea is to give chairman Ron Trenter more time to seek acquisitions and improve U&S's City image. Mr Trenter, ex-Texas Homecare, has pulled the retailer round. In its last year it produced profits of £423,000 and should top £1m next year. The shares firmed to 3.25p.

Birchm, the old Rushmore Wynd, is now a training group with two residential centres. Ellis & Partners see profits this year of £800,000. With the shares at 1.5p the prospective p/e is 10.7.

Affiance Resources hardened to 30p against the 60p on their return to market. It has sold US assets for \$1m; other deals are in the pipeline.



52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	PE Code
22.00	18.00	Alcoholic Beverages	22.00	+0.20	1.5	201
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	201
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1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	201
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	201

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	PE Code
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	201
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	201
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	201

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	PE Code
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	201
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	201
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	201

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	PE Code
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	201
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
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1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
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1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
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1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.10	1.5	
1.50	1.00	Alcoholic Beverages	1.50	+0.1		



		D-Mark	
		3 month	Spot
02/24	0518	0349	
02/27	1390	0785	
02/28	1234	7035	
03/01	3072	2020	
03/04	1376	0772	
03/07	0757	3076	
03/10	1075	0534	
03/13	MSD	2584	
03/16	5935	3307	
03/19	1775	1000	
03/22	2834	3430	
03/25	794	4332	
03/28	14547	0186	
04/01	7481	9529	
04/04	7832	6765	
04/07	53365	1864	
04/10		4373	
04/13	20045	1235	
04/16	1505	0535	
04/19	2360	4035	
04/22	914	1073	
04/25	375	2087	
04/28	1743	1091	
05/01	4173	2587	
05/04	150	84335	
05/07	72361	4300	
05/10	14749	0359	
05/13		05590	
Brling		Dollar	
02/24	0208	0360	
02/27	1822	34200	
02/28	002	521	
03/01	284	36405	
03/04	0981	58780	
03/07	2060	40365	
03/10	1370	30500	
03/13	2387	38150	
03/16	72361	43000	
03/19	0051	35725	
Japan		050%	
Discount <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>			
Belgium <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>			
Discount <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>			
Central <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>			
Switzerland <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>			
Discount <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>			
Lombard <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>			
chg		10 yr chg	
005	628	006	
006	579	009	
007	574	002	
008	585	002	
-001	570	-001	
006	570	003	
003	620	001	
000	184	000	
003	568	000	
-002	602	-002	
-004	637	-002	
002	381	000	
-001	660	002	
000	635	-001	
3 month		1 year	
734	741	744	750
734	741	744	750
734	741	744	750
734	741	744	750
586			
430	434		
Est floor volume		Open Interest	
6730		10080	
19530		28928	
	1228		
	1228		
	2117	11447	
	30288	280234	
	5021	32578	
	8768	70394	
	18305	12825	
	5405	8258	
	3597	4541	
	876	1080	
	385	734	
	5821	72206	
est		Feb Call Put	
73	360	195	
80	378	224	
17	280	247	
12	251	272	
L2000		L2000	
1 Dec	\$chg/YTD		
2126.25	-3.38		
263.28	4.35		
183.86	-5.76		
683.79	3.50		
8910.35	-705		
653.54	-8.9		
* prices at 8:30pm		Products (\$/tonne)	
Spot CIF NW Eur			
Domestic 95	20700		
Domestic 100	20700		
Domestic 110	20700		
Domestic 120	20700		
Domestic 130	20700		
Domestic 140	20700		
Domestic 150	20700		
Domestic 160	20700		
Domestic 170	20700		
Domestic 180	20700		
Domestic 190	20700		
Domestic 200	20700		
Domestic 210	20700		
Domestic 220	20700		
Domestic 230	20700		
Domestic 240	20700		
Domestic 250	20700		
Domestic 260	20700		
Domestic 270	20700		
Domestic 280	20700		
Domestic 290	20700		
Domestic 300			

Country	Starting Spot	1 month	3 month	Dollar Spot	1 month	3 month	D-Spot
UK	10000			0816	0824	0838	0349
Australia	22684	22691	22698	1367	1367	1380	0745
Canada	20250	20251	20250	1250	1258	1254	0639
France	81200	81200	81200	1580	1580	1580	0745
Germany	22704	22692	22506	1399	1390	1376	0782
Italy	10335			6170	6005	6261	0576
ECU	14821	14765	14769	6140	6340	6228	0692
Japan	87379	87280	86791	13391	13301	13281	29942
Netherlands	1817	1789	1782	5836	5826	5836	0339
Germany	20250	20246	20247	1782	1782	1780	0640
France	43676	43626	43188	27395	29126	29840	86450
UK	10335	10335	10335	1580	1580	1580	0745
Hong Kong	11291	11424	11222	14605	14556	14547	0766
Italy	26527	26515	26478	17446	17464	17481	09529
Japan	87379	87379	87379	13391	13391	13391	29942
Malaysia	54322	54300	54843	33350	33345	33655	13644
Thailand	16360			7720			43713
Netherlands	32945	32945	32956	5836	5836	5836	0339
New Zealand	22578	22559	22438	16293	15622	15676	0373
France	43676	43676	43676	27395	27395	27395	86450
Germany	20246	20246	20247	1782	1782	1780	0640
Japan	87379	87379	87379	13391	13391	13391	29942
Saudi Arabia	63396	63294	63195	37690	37590	3765	20887
South Africa	78771	78771	78771	15706	15706	15706	0745
Spain	24689	24625	24437	15008	15000	15002	04336
Sweden	24689	24625	24437	15008	15000	15002	04336
Switzerland	24348	24348	24027	14991	14991	14991	0339
Thailand	16360			7720			43713
UK	10335	10335	10335	1580	1580	1580	0745
USA	10000			0816	0824	0838	0349

Argentina	Starling	Dollar	Country	Starling	Dollar
China	10533	10000	Chen	06928	03860
Brazil	13964	10886	Poland	72128	34200
China	17583	82534	Philippines	55122	44050
Czech Rep	54038	33070	Poland	55949	34703
Egypt	4528	33263	Poland	53526	36405
France	36055	22300	Russia	38031	58710
Hungary	32229	17352	South Korea	50550	82040
India	8921	36350	Taiwan	49372	38150
Indonesia	26200	22217	Taiwan	62381	38550
Kuwait	04973	03042	Turkey	21670	26370
Nigeria	13328	81500	UAE	60051	36725

UK		Germany		US		Japan	
Base	700%	Discount	2.50%	Prime	8.50%	Discount	0.50%
France		Lombard	4.50%	Discount	5.00%	Belgium	
Intervention	3.30%	Canada		Fed Funds	5.58%	Discount	2.75%
Italy		Prime	5.25%	Spain		Central	3.30%
Discount	6.25%	Discount	3.75%	10-d Repo	5.00%	Switzerland	
Netherlands		Denmark		Sweden		Discount	1.00%
Sp/Advance	3.30%	Discount	3.50%	Rpo (Ave)	4.10%	Lombard	3.63%

Country	3rd chg	1 yr chg	2 yr chg	5 yr chg	10 yr chg
Australia	-0.08	-0.08	0.02	0.04	0.28
Belgium	0.39	0.43	-0.08	0.02	0.29
Canada	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.02	0.01
ECU	0.56	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02
France	0.00	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.00
Germany	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00
Italy	0.00	0.70	0.03	0.02	0.00
Japan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Netherlands	0.68	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00
Spain	-0.08	-0.08	-0.02	0.02	0.02
Sweden	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00
Switzerland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
US	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
United Kingdom	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
West Germany	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Yugoslavia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

	Overnight	1 week	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
Treasury Bills			6.95	6.85	6.85	6.95
LIBOR						
Domestic Deposits	706 739	706 739	723 729	725 731	734 741	744 750
Exporting Banks	703 709	703 709	733 739	728 734	734 741	747 753
Foreign Disks			702 697	714 704	714 704	
Swapping CDs			724 729	728 734	734 728	746 740
European CDs			6.59	6.64	6.66	
Euro Deposits			= .425	.461	.426	.434

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est. Open Interest	Open Interest
Long Gilt	Dec-97	186.9	184.1	780.0	8730
German Bund	Dec-97	101.89	102.04	10.85	90580
US Long Bond	Dec-97	116.93	—	—	289.62
Italian Bnd	Dec-97	—	—	115.9	11258
Japan Govt Bnd	Dec-97	123.72	123.74	123.60	—
31% Sterling	Dec-97	92.84	92.86	92.82	194327
3 Mth Eurodmt	Mar-98	92.82	92.85	92.80	2172
3 Mth Eurodmt	Mar-98	95.77	95.80	95.78	50268
3 Mth Eurodmt	Dec-97	93.78	93.80	93.77	33798
3 Mth Euroyen	Mar-98	94.48	94.50	94.46	18906
3 Mth Euroswiss	Dec-97	97.91	97.96	97.90	5402
3 Mth Eurodmt	Mar-98	97.67	97.73	97.67	3517
3 Mth Eurodmt	Dec-97	95.34	95.36	95.33	506
FTSE 100	Dec-97	82.97	82.94	82.93	8294
FTSE 100	Dec-97	5265.00	5265.00	5265.00	582

Settlement Price: 522590											
Series	Nov		Dec		Jan		Feb				
	Call	Put	Call	Put	Call	Put	Call	Put			
5160	185	22	88	22	250	144	262	173			
5200	160	22	103	21	225	155	253	180			
5250	125	21	110	22	165	177	238	217			
5300	98	20	155	21	165	164	197	249			

	Base date	Last	Chg	%chg	31 Dec	%chgYTD
Index	1970=100	202.89	147	0.71	216.26	-3.38
Agricultural	1970=100	240.84	122	0.51	251.23	4.16
Energy	1963=100	30.80	0.57	0.71	65.86	-5.76
Iron & Metals	1977=100	174.66	0.00	0.00	168.79	3.60
Livestock	1970=100	177.58	196	1.3	191.03	-7.05
Prec Metals	1973=100	420.96	0.01	0.00	463.54	-9.19

SPE Close Chg Vol				SPE Close Chg Vol				NYM Last Chg				Product/Cif NW Eur				
Nov	18.79	12.79	10086	Oct	18.50	18.50	8126	Oct	1880	1880						
Dec	18.83	0.07	13802	Nov	17.75	0.50	4829	Nov	20.70	0.00						
Dec	19.86	0.07	2039	Dec	19.00	0.75	2173	Dec	20.82	0.02						
								Jan	20.88	0.02						

ME (Stonnes)	Cash	Chg	3 month	Chg	IME stocks	Chg
Aluminium HG	1576	1577	-1550	1504	1505	-143
Aluminium Alloy	1450	1455	-1300	1425	1450	-182
Copper A	2050	2070	-2000	2004.5	2063.5	-575
Lead	590	590	-550	562	562	-5
Nickel	6380	6370	-6000	6430	6425	-6
Zinc	5385	5375	-7500	540	5425	-5
Inc	1250	1251	-1000	1270	1271	-1

ozn flz/s per oz		pzn flz/s per oz		Coins (\$)						
	Day's Yr's chg	Day's Yr's chg		Day's Yr's chg	Day's Yr's trade chg					
Platinum	424.50	3.00	400	258.25	0.50	15.20	Kruggerands	321.25	-58.90	
Palladium	507.00	4.00	91.00	Palladium	228.40	-2.50	53.35	Sows	75.44	
Silver	4.96	0.02	0.00	Silver	3.29	0.25	0.21	Nobles	408.45	
Gold	323.30	0.00	-57.70					Maple Leaf	335.91	-58.29

COFFE	Coffee		Barley		Potatoes		Lge Potatoes	
LFPE	CLFFE	SLFFE	SLFFE	CLFFE	LFPE	CLFFE	CLFFE	CLFFE
Nov97	107630	Nov97	144850	Nov97	7890	3000	Nov97	90250
Dec97	107630	Dec97	144850	Dec97	7890	3000	Dec97	90250
Jan98	107630	Jan98	144850	Jan98	7890	3000	Jan98	90250
Feb98	107630	Feb98	144850	Feb98	7890	3000	Feb98	90250
Mar98	107630	Mar98	144850	Mar98	7890	3000	Mar98	90250
Apr98	107630	Apr98	144850	Apr98	7890	3000	Apr98	90250
May98	107630	May98	144850	May98	7890	3000	May98	90250
Jun98	107630	Jun98	144850	Jun98	7890	3000	Jun98	90250
Jul98	107630	Jul98	144850	Jul98	7890	3000	Jul98	90250
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## United forewarned about a Dutch confidence trick

After a series of good results by England and English clubs, Manchester United go into tonight's Champions' League game in good heart.

It has been left to their manager to sound the warnings. Glenn Moore reports.

After spending much of his career persuading his players the crack continental were not all they were cracked up to be, Alex Ferguson now finds himself

having to remind his players of the dangers of complacency.

After Manchester United's defeat of Juventus, Newcastle's despatch of Barcelona, and England's Roman joy, there is a feeling of invincibility among the top echelons of the game.

Even Ruud Gullit has joined the chorus suggesting the football revolution has changed the whole mood of the country.

While this is a rare pleasure, the belief that we have never had it so good also brings its dangers.

It is less than a year since Manchester United lost their unbeaten European home record to Fenerbahce, a team of lesser achievement and pedigree than tonight's Champions' League opponents, Feyenoord.

Two decades on, however, and the heirs to Wim Van Hanegam, Wim Jansen and Rinus Israel are not in the class of Best, Law and Charlton's successors.

A series of summer departures have significantly weakened the team: Ulrich van Gobbel from Southampton, and David Connolly from Watford, are hardly equal replacements for Ronald Koeman and Henrik Larsson.

They were beaten 5-1 by Juventus in their opening Champions' League match and are struggling at home, with Saturday's 2-0 defeat to Willem II leaving them 10 points adrift of

the leaders. Ajax and, prompting further calls for Haan's resignation, Morale is further weakened by the probable absence tonight, through injury, of captain Henk Fraser, and the loss of the suspended Cruz.

"Our League form is not good either," Ferguson said yesterday when Feyenoord's problems were put to him. Indeed, United have only taken six points from 15, but even Ferguson is now prepared to admit the European Cup is taking precedence.

Should a Feyenoord defeat be followed by Haan's departure, Chelsea fans should brace themselves for more tales of the club attempting to attract Gullit. They would have some credibility. Having grown up in Rotterdam, and played for Feyenoord early in his career, Gullit has emotional ties to De

Kuip, but he does not sound ready to forsake English football.

"Maybe it takes an outsider to tell you, but what you have achieved here is incredible," he said this week. "English football has become the role model for the world. In Europe we used to look at England and think you have this stubborn island mentality - 'we are the best, we conquered the world'. But now there is a new mood. The whole country's changing like football did, the political direction has changed and we are all united."

"When I came here the rest of Europe thought English football was simple. But you

changed it without losing your identity. You have retained your enthusiasm and approach, always being positive and trying to make goals. Manchester United were the first which is why they won so many things, they were ahead of the rest. But now you can see Arsenal are changing, Blackburn, Derby, everyone. People don't just want to see kick and rush any more, they want to see good tactical football, they want to see passing. United pass the ball better than most and they should do so well enough, and quickly enough, to defeat Feyenoord tonight.

## Connolly takes the long route to Old Trafford

Last season David Connolly was turning out for Watford in the Second Division. Tonight he is playing for Feyenoord against Manchester United in the Champions' League and next week for the Republic of Ireland in the World Cup play-offs. Andrew Longmore visits the striker in the Dutch city he is already mastering.

A quick glance through his fixture list last week was enough to convince David Connolly that life was beginning to look up. Manchester United (away), Ajax (home), Belgium (away), Manchester United (home). Makes a nice change from away days to Walsall and Wrexham, which was the staple diet during his time at Watford.

Connolly can hardly believe his luck. Out of contract and out of favour at Vicarage Road, he was surprised to find Arie Haan, coach of Feyenoord, one of his hidden admirers: more tickled still to be called to Rotterdam for an interview. Not only was this a convenient way out of an increasingly acrimonious relationship with his boyhood club, it opened the door on a brave new world of Champions' League and World Cups. Feyenoord, second in the Dutch league last season, a club steeped in European tradition, was certainly a better staging post for a summer in France than Watford.

"Some English clubs came in for me, but who's to say that would have been the best move," he said. "I wouldn't have come here if this had been a nothing club. It's profession-

ally run, ambitious and there's always the chance of being in Europe, which is not the case for most clubs in England." The cautionary tales of his Irish team-mates, Gary Breen, bought by Coventry, but largely relegated to the reserves, and Mark Kennedy, rarely a starter in two seasons at Anfield, highlighted the dangers of moving too fast. "I'm on the verge of being a regular in a club which once had Cruyff and Gullit."

At the age of 20, Connolly still has much to prove. Ten goals in 26 games for Watford, including two hat-tricks in his first three games, and five goals in six internationals hint of a precious talent, but no more. Yet first signs have been encouraging. Last week, as Feyenoord laboured to a 2-1 victory over bottom of the table Maastricht, Connolly's warm-up routine was greeted with ecstatic applause in contrast to the disdain currently being heaped on a number of well-paid foreign recruits in the Dutch league.

If Connolly was voted the "most hated player ever to leave Watford" by the club fanzine, mainly because his ambitions seemed to dwarf his achievements, his all-action style has brought instant popularity on the terraces of a club built on the blue-collar virtues of thrift and hard work. It helped the honeymoon that Connolly scored within five minutes of coming off the bench in his first game.

"I think the fans appreciate my attitude," he said. "It's strange having to think of myself as a foreigner, but I am to them. Understandably, they want to know that you want to play for their club. The Irish and the Dutch have always got on."

Connolly's Irish qualification comes from his parents, both Dubliners. Connolly himself was born in Willesden and,

like a number of his countrymen, has more Irish in his surname than his accent. But there is no doubting his commitment to the cause, which will reach the point of no return next week in the first leg of the World Cup qualification play-off against Belgium. "It wouldn't be that much of a dream to play in the World Cup, not with the players we have," he said. "We ought to be there."

In the meantime, the little matter of a visit to Old Trafford will occupy his mind. Feyenoord are desperately short of confidence. Henrik Larsson, Ed de Goey and Gaston Laumen moved on in the close season, Ronald Koeman retired. Their replacements - Julio Cruz and Pablo Sanchez from Argentina, Igor Korneev from Russia - have yet to blend and, with Giovanni van Bronckhorst, a Dutch international, still only 22, Feyenoord's inexperience was mercilessly exposed by Juventus, who scored three times in the first 20 minutes of their opening Champions' League match.

Domestic form has been equally erratic and, in his first start of the season last Sunday, the stocky Irishman could do little to ease the pressure on Haan. In a 2-0 defeat by mid-table Willem II, Connolly's contribution was limited to the odd half-chance and strenuous appeals for a first half penalty. It had, by his own admission, not been one of his better days, but enough perhaps to secure a place in the starting line-up at Old Trafford tonight.

"These are the sort of games you want to be playing in," he said. "You could lead a nice cosy life at a comfortable club and not have any pressure. But you want to be at a club like this, a big club playing big games." It would be a prime time to add some big deeds to brave words.



All-action hero: 'You want to be at a big club like this, a big club playing big games,' says Feyenoord's David Connolly

Photograph: Empics

## 'Inspired' Watson has prize to himself

The Barnsley goalkeeper David Watson became the toast of the town on Monday night and picked up a bottle of bubbly following his man-of-the-match performance in the 2-0 win over Coventry, the club's first Premiership victory since the end of August.

It was also Watson's first clean sheet since a 1-0 success at Crystal Palace in the middle of the same month and the three points lifted his side off the bottom of the table.

Rather than celebrating the end of a nightmare run with his team-mates, the former England Under-21 international would prefer to guzzle away on his own.

"I'll drink it when I get the chance in a quiet corner. I

won't open it with team-mates," he said. "Anyway, they've said I can keep it because I don't win much."

Certainly the 23-year-old won't need to drown his sorrows as hammerings at the hands of Chelsea, Everton, Wimbledon and Arsenal - conceding 19 goals in those games - were quickly forgotten.

Watson made seven outstanding saves on Monday, particularly in the closing 25 minutes when the Coventry striker Simon Haworth was denied three times.

John Salako, Marcus Hall, Willie Boland and David Burrows also suffered frustration at the hands of Watson, who Danny Wilson, the Barnsley manager, described as "inspired".

Despite being on the receiving end of several drubbings, as well as suffering concussion and bruised kidneys during the last League win at home to Bolton - injuries which kept him on the sidelines for three games - Watson has remained confident throughout.

The match was his 150th League appearance for the club and he said: "It can be difficult when goals are flying past you but I've had a break. I've worked hard on the training ground and I think it's showed in the last two performances."

"You can't lose your confidence even when every mistake you're making is getting punished. But I've worked at it and put things right and now I've just got to keep it going."

Watson's next test will be on Saturday when Barnsley travel to Old Trafford, but he remains confident. "Now we've got a result we've got to go in there with the same confidence," he said. "It's going to be very difficult for us but we will enjoy it and give a good account of ourselves."

Watson's display helped end a barren and depressing seven-game losing streak against Premiership sides - six in the League - with Wilson praising his goalkeeper.

"It's been difficult for David because of the amount of goals he has let in this season, but to play like that will give him a massive boost," he said.

"You can't really single out David for the blame on a lot of

the goals because the boys in front of him have been jittery for long periods of the season and goals were flying in left, right and centre.

"But he has gone out there and shown what a good goalkeeper he is. We've had to pick him up on a couple of occasions because keepers take it personally when they concede a lot of goals."

"It was important we kept him bubbling. The lad has worked his socks off over the last two to three weeks in training and now he has come through it fantastically."

"That's all you can do. You can't go moping around and feeling sorry for yourself. You've got to stand up and take it on the chin."

## Albert's 'beastly' intentions

It would be a night most central defenders in Europe would have lost sleep over but Philippe Albert is looking forward to facing the "beast of Belgium", Gilles de Bilde, in Newcastle United's Champions' League match in Eindhoven tonight.

Albert is desperately hoping for a recall after missing Saturday's defensive debacle at Leeds so he can face his international room-mate, a player he believes has an unfair reputation on the pitch.

"I've played against Gilles before, when he was with Anderlecht. He's a great player I've had no problems with and he's also great company off the field. It is true he has a bad reputation, but it would be wrong of us to forget he's a very good player," Albert said.

De Bilde is one of the

brightest prospects in Europe but also one of the most temperamental. Last December he was leading Anderlecht's attack against his former club, Aalst, when his frustration at Krist Port's close marking got the better of him. When Port tugged his shirt, the striker lashed out with a left hook. Port suffered slight concussion, a broken nose and eye socket and a bruised retina. He has not played since.

The referee missed the incident, but the television cameras did not and de Bilde was banned for three months. PSV, undeterred, moved quickly to snap up the striker.

Albert knows it could be a huge night for his own international career if he is to play a part in the first leg of next week's World Cup play-off against the

Republic of Ireland. "I know the Belgian international boss Wilfried van Moel will be in Eindhoven watching," he said. "I only hope I'm involved. But more important than that is that Newcastle get a good result against PSV and I play."

For the Dutch champions, bottom of Group C with only one point from two games, tonight's game with second-placed Newcastle represents a final throw of the dice. "For us it's our last chance and we have to win to keep our chances alive," the PSV assistant coach, Rob Baan, said yesterday.

PSV's recent form signals a tough night for Newcastle, as they cruised to a 4-0 away victory at NEC Nijmegen on Sunday with their Belgian strike force of Luc Nilis and de Bilde both scoring.

## Smith gives Asanovic the chance to prove his worth at passing game

The Croat midfielder Aljosa Asanovic has been told to improve Derby County's passing game and increase his chances of avoiding being left out in the cold. Asanovic returns for the rearranged Premiership match with Wimbledon tonight because of the absence of Robin van der Laan and Igor Stimac.

The Croat centre-half's back problem allows Smith to give Asanovic his first game since September. He is the third non-EU player, along with the Estonian goalkeeper

Mari Poom and Costa Rica's Paulo Wanchope, in a 16-man squad.

And the Derby manager, Jim Smith, unhappy with his team's use of the ball in the second-half of Saturday's 2-2 draw with Manchester United, has laid down a challenge to the Croat.

"We need someone to pass the ball better in midfield and hope Aljosa can do that," said Smith. "This is a chance for him to do the business and show why he should be in the team."

Asanovic was sidelined with

an injury at the start of the season and has been pushed into the background by the non-EU ruling and Smith's decision to play with three strikers.

"He isn't happy but he understands the situation," Smith said. "Any professional worth his salt would feel unhappy and I would be disappointed if Aljosa felt any differently."

Derby have suffered a setback with the news that their Italian midfielder, Stefano Eranio, will be out until at least next week with a slight hamstring tear.

Eranio scored in the first Pride Park meeting with Wimbledon before the match was abandoned when the floodlights failed with Derby leading 2-1, but Smith warned: "All that's in the past now. The only thing that will be the same tomorrow night is that we will have to play with the same determination and energy to get a result."

Wimbledon will almost certainly be unchanged for their trip to Derby, with their manager, Joe Kinnear, set to keep faith with the side which beat

Aston Villa 2-1 at Villa Park on Saturday.

Wimbledon will be without their talented young striker Jason Euell, who dislocated his shoulder during their Coca-Cola Cup third-round exit at Bolton last week, and he will be ruled out for several weeks.

Kinnear said: "I need to get my best 11 players out every week but we have been crippled with injuries and you have to take your chance with kids. And we have worked extremely hard on developing our home-grown kids."



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## Springboks slam the door on their exiles

South Africa's rugby administrators flew in the face of popular opinion yesterday by officially ostracising a number of World Cup winning Springbok legends from the national side. Chris Hewett weighs up the implications of a deeply controversial shift in policy.

Francois Pienaar and Joel Stransky always suspected their decision to swap South African krugers for English pounds would bring their extraordinary Springbok careers rushing headlong into a brick wall the size of Ellis Park, but it did not stop them hoping for a minor selectorial miracle. As of yesterday, that hope no longer exists. The door has finally been slammed in their faces.

Rian Oberholzer, the chief executive of the South African Rugby Football Union, confirmed that no player earning his rugby living outside the national borders would be considered for Springbok duty. His statement was stark and unequivocal and left Pienaar, the Boks' World Cup-winning captain just two years ago, and Stransky, who scored all 15 of his country's points when they beat New Zealand on that momentous afternoon in Johannesburg, up to their eyeballs in the freezing stuff.

Pienaar left Transvaal last December to throw in his lot with Saracens while Stransky joined Leicester from Western Province. They are not alone in their isolation. Gavin Johnson, the former Springbok full-back who joined Pienaar at Sarries a couple of months back, and Rudolf Straeuli, a World Cup No 8 now plying his trade at Bedford, are also officially out of the frame.

So too is Fritz van Heerden, who is about to leave Cape Town to renew his acquaintance with Stransky at Welford Road. Van Heerden is by far the most

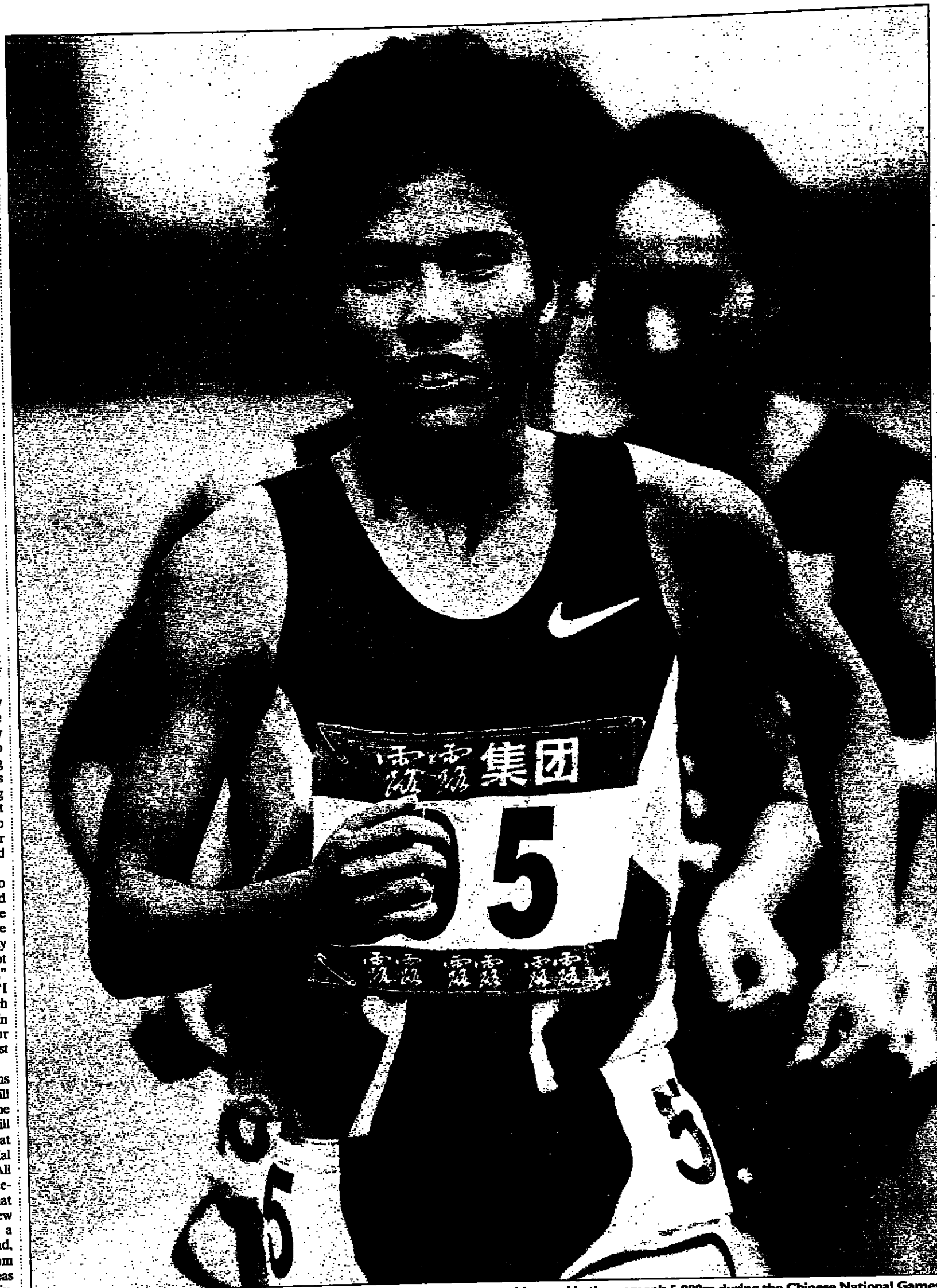
significant loss to the Boks as they prepare for a forthcoming European tour that includes one-off Tests with both England and Scotland; the imposing back-five utility forward played against the Lions in the summer and was considered an integral component of a South African pack currently being rebuilt by Nick Mallett, the new coach.

Mallett expressed his frustration yesterday. "I am very disappointed in Fritz," he said, "but I can understand that he has to look to himself from a professional viewpoint. He is married to a Dutch citizen and it is his ambition to go overseas." Privately, Mallett insists it is almost impossible to instil the right sort of team ethic into a band of foreign-based mercenaries.

That view was supported by Oberholzer, who said: "We are only following the lead set by New Zealand, who are trying to keep their players from moving to Japan and other places. This does not mean we are stopping players from going overseas. It is their choice whether they go to Europe to earn a living or whether they stay here and play for their country."

However, the decision to exile men like Van Heerden and Stransky, both of whom have plenty to contribute at the highest level, has upset many Springbok supporters. "It's not the most popular decision," admitted one Sarfu insider. "I think a lot of people very much wanted to see Fritz and Joel in Bokke colours on this tour because they're among the best we have."

The foreign block remains an executive decision and still has to be rubber-stamped by the full Sarfu board. Members will be uncomfortably aware that they do not possess a financial lever comparable to the All Blacks' new £28m kit agreement with Adidas—a deal that guarantees all of New Zealand's leading players a top-of-the-range salary and, therefore, immunity from chequebook-wielding overseas predators—but it is inconceivable that the move will be overturned.



Dong Yanmei, of China, breaks away from the pack on her way to setting a world record in the women's 5,000m during the Chinese National Games. Yanmei, coached by Ma Junren, clocked 14min 31.27sec—five seconds inside the old mark.  
Report, page 28; Photograph: AFP

### ROWING

#### President's case of the blues

Tim Foster is a Boat Race oarsman, Olympic bronze medal winner and a world champion, but that counts for nothing to the academics of Oxford University, who have left him up the Cherwell without a paddle.

Their decision not to take him aboard for a post-graduate degree in sports psychology put the 27-year-old Foster in the embarrassing position of being president of the university's boat club while not being a student there.

The 6ft 3in Foster, who led the Oxford crew in the annual meeting with Cambridge University on the Thames last March, is considered to be the most relaxed, natural stroke in British rowing. He fully expected to be taking part again in one of the key events in the British sporting calendar next spring.

Instead, he has been forced to step down and the 20-year-old Andrew Lindsay, who, as a freshman, rowed in Foster's losing crew, elected president.

It all makes for a miserable October for Foster, who last month won the coxless four World Championship with Steve Redgrave, Matthew Pinsent and James Cracknell.

Lindsay, who made the grade with the dons by gaining a first in his first-year geography exams, said: "Of course we'll miss Tim, because he is an outstanding crewman as well as an individual star, but we have plenty of strong men to fill his place."

He is confident that with a strong squad and under the new coaching team of the Dutchman Rene Mijnders and Sean Bowden, he will be able to turn the tide of five successive defeats against the Light Blues. "We have a strong squad which includes four from last year's crew and already they are combining nicely," he said. "I'm looking forward to it."

For Foster, who has had to move to Brunel University to further his studies, the only involvement will be watching from the Tideway bank.

—Hugh Matheson

### FOOTBALL

#### Sir Bobby leads strikeforce for England's World Cup bid

Sir Bobby Charlton will lead from the front as England's bid to land the 2006 World Cup steps up a gear today.

Sir Bobby is a key player in the Football Association team aiming to bring the tournament to England and he will today fly out with Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, on an eight-day visit to the United States, Costa Rica and Trinidad and Tobago.

Graham Kelly, chief executive of the FA, and Alec McGivan, who heads the FA's campaign, will complete the four-man delegation which will have talks with senior Fifa officials in all three countries.

The trip is the first major international element of the bid, which was boosted by news yesterday of a £3m grant from the Sports Council.

Functions have been held at the British embassies in Paris during last summer's Tournoi de France and in Rome hours before Glenn Hoddle's side secured their place in next summer's finals.

McGivan said: "We've held a number of successful international events so far, but this will be the first time we've sat down with members of the Fifa executive to talk about the strengths of our bid."

"The feedback we've had so far has been very positive, and people know there has never been a better time for the World Cup to come back to England."

"We're confident that our bid is the best in the world. The cornerstone of that bid is passion and professionalism and that is the message we want to take to these three vital Fifa countries."

"As well as meeting the officials of the world game's governing body in these countries, we want to meet the people, to let them hear our message and see how serious we are."

### BOXING

#### Couch presses for right to box at Wembley

Moves are being made to include Jane Couch, Britain's top woman boxer, on the bill at the Wembley Arena on 6 December.

Panix promotions, the backers of the World Boxing Council heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis, intend to apply to the British Board of Control for Couch to appear on the Herol Graham-Vinnie Pazienza undercard.

The Board, however, appear to have no alternative but to wait on the outcome of Couch's industrial tribunal against them on 26 November.

The head of Panix, Panos

Eliades, believes that Couch, like men, should have the right to decide whether she wants to pursue a professional career.

Couch, from Fleetwood, Lancashire, and under contract to Panix for the last three months, made an unsuccessful application for a Board licence six months ago.

"If she wins the case, then she will still have to comply with the licence procedures, a licensed manager and all the things she supposed to have," John Morris, the Board secretary said.

"We haven't objected

because of any antagonism to women's boxing. We've objected because our doctors have put forward a lot of medical grounds, and on those medical grounds we haven't granted her a licence. We are defending the case purely on that."

"We have made no comment whatsoever on the pros and cons of women's boxing. We haven't said we are against; we haven't said we are in favour."

Couch fought on a Panix co-promotion in America in July and this weekend she is due to appear on an all-women promotion in Mississippi.

### MORSE

#### The first bug to invade a computer was crushed to death in the jaws of a relay in 1945

Bugs (albeit of a somewhat different type) are still a part of computing today. No system is immune without special protection.

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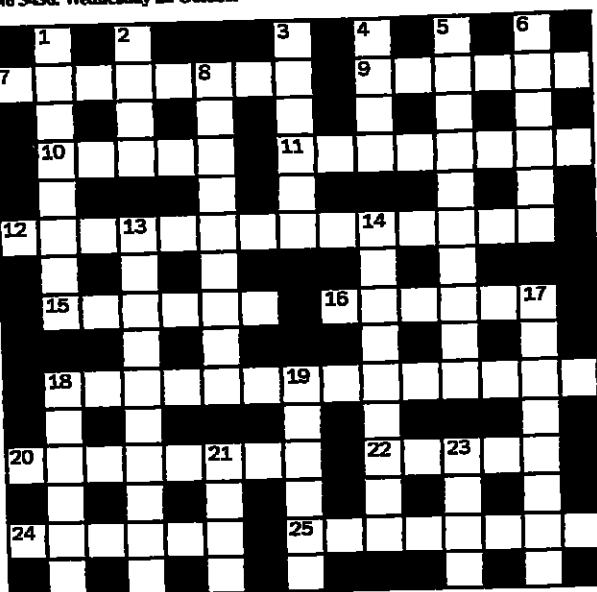
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### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No 3436. Wednesday 22 October

By Aquila

Tuesday's Solution



ACROSS  
7 Interpreter has to go slowly approaching Sultanate (8)  
9 Nothing on trial, sadly, in the market-place (6)  
10 Inapt, changing colour (5)  
11 Merry tune - number one in Windscale, say? (5,3)  
12 Assembly-rooms Mum chooses, of no variety (5,2,7)  
15 Defence fair people listen to? (6)  
16 Severe form of gastric trouble (6)  
18 Pictures indexed sometimes? (6-8)

DOWN  
20 Holy rest, perhaps, provided by The Tabard Inn (8)  
22 Plant in neat border (5)  
24 Walked purposefully in Dorset resort (6)  
25 Coward's allergic reaction (3,5)  
1 Mouth-opening lets down many an actor (4-4)  
2 Hybrid fruit said to have nothing of the peach in it (4)  
3 Noble Century, it turns out, taken all together (2,4)  
4 Potential wooer fastening on belt (4)  
5 Traction so variable in drawer for papers (10)

6 Flight taking one into the Milky Way, for example (6)  
8 Instrument to help bartender, say, with correct measure? (9)  
13 All-male race? That will get us nowhere! (10)  
14 Match trumps in card-game (9)  
17 Approach-lines of Don Juan, for example (4-4)  
18 Establishes business with sums of money in hand (6)  
19 Mind this part of autopsych? (6)  
21 Shelter king with national emblem (4)  
23 Recline with female? Gladly, in the old days! (4)

Published by New York Publishing Plc, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3BH, and printed at Milton Colour Print, St Albans, Herts. AL1 1JL.  
Back pages available from Historic Newspapers, 01928 541170.  
We publish 22 October 1997. Reprinted on a separate page with the Daily Mail.

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